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STATES, NSL BATTLE FOR POWER

By
CRAIG
MACKENZIE

'World cup' indoors?

In order to gain TV coverage from 0/28 for the planned Buffalo Indoor Series, the VSF is prepared to invite NSW State League championship contenders Sydney Croatia and Melita Eagles to compete.

The four-night, six-a-side event first was proposed last May. Buffalo Sports agreed to underwrite the series for \$20,000 providing TV coverage was obtained.

VSF publicity officer, Law Stafrace, couldn't attract interest from the commercial networks or the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Even 0/28 balked after learning of the initial format, involving only clubs from Melbourne. Since then Stafrace has revamped the series and is prepared to run it either as a club competition or a "national teams" event.

0/28's multicultural charter may prompt it to favor a 24-nation event with teams representing Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Macedonia, Malta, Germany, Australia, Spain, Ireland, Argentina, Scotland and so on.

If the competition is run on a club basis, Stafrace will invite Sydney Croatia and Melita to join Melbourne's NSL and State League clubs. If Melbourne's NSL contingent increases from four to eight clubs then that would be perfect for Stafrace. He'd invite them and the 14 State League clubs and add Sydney Croatia and Melita, to reach his preferred target of 24 participants.

Originally, Stafrace wanted to start the indoor tournament on the last Monday of this month or the first Monday in September. That's been changed. The tournament now will be held either in October or next February.

He's not worried about clashing with the traditional pre-season night series which runs in February, and was known as the Ampol Cup until the company pulled out this year. That tournament will go ahead, under a different title if the VSF finds a new sponsor, on its usual Friday night and Saturday night-double header basis while the Buffalo Indoor Series starts on a Monday and ends three nights later, on a Thursday.

The Buffalo Indoor Series will be held at the recently completed \$10.5 million Victorian Indoor Sports Centre, part of the Olympic Park complex.

Stafrace sees tremendous crowd-pulling potential in running the event as a national teams competition. He's well aware of the enormous public interest once generated by the old "World Cup" held in Melbourne in the 1950's and 60's.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

NSW federation president Karl Rodny will call on VSF support to quash the NSL's proposed 24-team, two-league format for 1984.

And Victoria may respond favorably. If so, the consensus reached recently at ASF executive level will be shattered.

VSF State League chairman, Vito Cilauri, was expected to call an extraordinary meeting of all State League clubs as we went to Press. It was expected that the Metropolitan League board of management, under the chairmanship of John Hodgson, would do likewise.

These meetings will discuss the breakdown in negotiations between the States and the NSL over NSL voting rights within the Victorian and NSW federations and the impasse in discussions over the composition of the new leagues of management to administer the affairs of the proposed two new leagues.

VSF and NSL representatives held an informal meeting at Soccer House in Melbourne last Friday but were unable to reach agreement. The VSF was represented by Cilauri, Hodgson, George Wallace and John Dimitsis. The NSL was represented by Sam Papasavas, Tony Kovac and John Branov.

"We haven't agreed on anything," Cilauri declared after the meeting.

"The NSL is restructuring its league set-up because of seven and a half years of stagnation. They (the NSL) say that they are coming to the States to help us. I told Sam Papasavas that it is we who are helping them. By taking away the best four clubs in the VSF, the NSL surely isn't doing us any favors."

"I told Sam Papasavas that he must be dreaming when he mentioned his idea of what the breakdown should be for voting rights in the VSF. At present the State League has 56 votes, as has the Metropolitan League. "Sam suggested that the eight Melbourne-based NSL clubs should have the existing powers of the State League, with the State League and Metro League combined having less votes. That's simply not on."

"A second solution put forward by the NSL people was that the eight NSL clubs should have 40 votes, the State League 28 votes and the Metropolitan League 36 votes. The risk there is that the NSL and State League may combine to overpower the Metropolitan League by 68 votes to 56."

"What we propose is that the NSL and State League combined have 56 votes, with the Metropolitan League having 56 votes. That way we would maintain the balance we presently enjoy."

The NSW Federation successfully applied to the ASF to switch a proposed ASF executive meeting from August 27 to September 3 to allow it time to hold a general meeting of its clubs at which the NSW federation hopes to gain unqualified support for its "super league" proposal.

That general meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 31 and will be asked to vote on a federation proposal: 24-team NSW Super League, consisting of the present 12 State League clubs, plus Sydney City Hakoah, St George Budapest, Marconi, APIA, Sydney Olympic and perhaps Canberra and Newcastle.

"We hope to get the go-ahead from our clubs for our Super League plan. We can't allow the NSL to grab control and destroy our federation. That's their plan, you know. I just hope that Victoria wakes up to that in time," said Rodny.

At present the States enjoy an agreement in principle with the NSL which would see a 24-team national competition next year consisting of 12 clubs in an Australian Conference and 12 in a National Conference.

Now the power brokers from both NSL and State federation factions are negotiating over control of these proposed new leagues and Rodny believes that the NSL wants a virtual takeover of State federations.

The NSL threat to break-away from the ASF was instrumental in the so-called consensus reached at last month's ASF executive meeting to discuss the NSL proposals for restructuring its competition.

The NSL says that it will go ahead with its 24-team, two-league plan with or without State federation support. It simply will call for applicants to join the new-look NSL and admit them until the 24-team target is reached. The States can go to hell.

Or to F.I.F.A.

The States, if rankled enough, could pass a resolution forcing the ASF to propose that F.I.F.A. outlaw the NSL. As a consequence, all NSL players would be banned from playing for any club outside the league, for their State and country. For life.

Players who then stayed with NSL clubs would have their careers severely curtailed. Few are likely to put up with that.

"We will protect our interests. The question of control of the proposed new NSL leagues still is up in the air. It has become, if you like, a power struggle. Not so much for me, because I simply see it as a problem which rational men can solve. Nevertheless, if the NSL can't assure us that our interests have full protection then the problem never will be solved," said Cilauri.



• Cilauri

• Rodny

• Papasavas

Flashback
to West
Ad's win

—page 3

Vic Bozanic — he won
the titleVictorian State
League—p.10-11NSW STATE
LEAGUE, p.4

Tsigaris back after second leg-break, Ward out with his third

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Lous Tsigaris has had both his legs broken in separate soccer accidents.

He's back now, looking for a new club and hoping it doesn't happen again.

Meanwhile, Preston Makedonia striker Gary Ward, who has broken his left leg twice, is out of action again with a fracture of his right leg.

It's not as serious as the previous breaks however, and he expected to be playing again in three weeks.

Tsigaris, 23, was given his chance late last year to establish himself finally as South Melbourne Hellas's No. 1 goalkeeper.

The then coach, Tommy Docherty, decided that Peter Laumets wasn't playing well enough and that it was time to try Tsigaris.

"I gave it all I had," Tsigaris says. "Everything was coming out right for me but in my seventh successive match, I collided with David Lowe of Newcastle, and broke my left leg."

"The last time I'd had an extended run in the Hellas team was back in 1976, while Jack Reilly, the No. 1 keeper, was away on national team duty. All the other years I was in the reserves, on the bench, and then in Hellas's State League team."

It has taken Tsigaris more than six months to get over the broken leg but he's been doing a lot of training lately, and is eager to get back into soccer.

It was about seven years ago that he suffered his first broken leg. "Luckily it was the other one — the right one. I wouldn't have wanted to break the same leg twice," he says.

He's not keen to stay with Hellas now.

"I don't see much future for me there. They've not really treated me well. In fact I've heard nothing from the club in all the time that I've been away. You'd think someone would try to find out how I was."

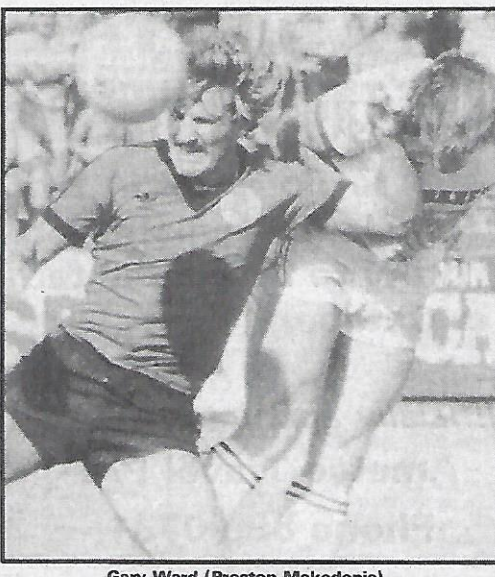
Tsigaris completed teachers' college last year and now is a qualified teacher, looking for a teaching job. He's working in the recreation office of Preston Technical College, organising activities and looking after the gym.

He's also coaching the Lalar under 12's.

Clubs interested in signing Tsigaris for next season can contact him at home on 488 8579.



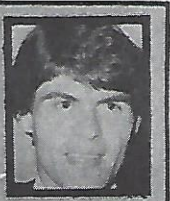
Lou Tsigaris in action for SM-Hellas.



Gary Ward (Preston Makedonia)

KAT'S CORNER

with PETER KATHOLOS



Modest Dakos names stars

Despite his own modesty, Tony Dakos will develop into one of Australia's finest sweepers — and I'm saying that not only because we both play for Sydney Olympic.

In fact, he's already one of the top sweepers in the country — very stylish, able to pass the ball with either foot, good in the air, and able to read play very well.

In order to introduce him to the Australian soccer public, I sought the following information from him. You'll see what I mean about his modesty.

Date and place of birth: 9/4/1964, Marrickville, NSW

Previous clubs: APIA (juniors). **Senior debut:** Against St George, in a 4-0 win, at the end of the 1982 season.

Career highlight: Playing for Australia in the World Youth Championships in Mexico this year.

Ambition: To play overseas.

What about the national team? It's one of my dreams to play for the senior Socceroos, but I don't think I'll be selected again.

Interests: I like to socialise and listen to funk music.

Favourite players: Socrates of Brazil, and Franz Beckenbauer of Cosmos.

What do you think of training techniques in Australia? There's not enough training, in general, and there should be greater variety. Also, more individual training is needed.

Who has most influenced your career? Ljubo Gokovic, who coached me in Olympic's youth team and who introduced me to senior side last year. Tommy Docherty, and also John Doyle, the former Socceroo who I've known since I was 13, because he was teaching me at Ashfield High School. He gave me a lot of individual training, which helped me a lot.

Who do you rate as the top young players? Fabio Incantavolo

of Juventus in Melbourne, Jim Patikas of Olympic and Dennis Fierlatis of Canterbury-Marrickville.

How do you see our junior set-up? It's all wrong. No pressure should be put on young kids. Leave them alone. Let them express themselves and enjoy themselves on the field, without too many worries.

Do you like the idea of a 24-team, regionalised NSL next season? I reckon it would be good. It would create more interest, ensure bigger crowds and make more money for the clubs.

Who's going to win the title this year? Sydney Olympic.

What about the top four? Olympic, Sydney City, Makedonia and St George.

Warming up essential

I want to dwell a moment on the importance of warming up before training and before a game.

I talk from experience, because I've been injured due to inadequate warming-up time.

First, let me say it is essential to exercise before training and playing in order to create the correct atmosphere in the organism.

Some light jogging and half-hearted gymnastics will not prepare the body properly for the sudden sprints, turns, stops and other movements required.

These need specialised exercises to bring the body to full functional preparedness.

Muscles that are warm allow the blood to run through them more easily, and are less likely to



Tony Dakos

be damaged when they suddenly have to increase their effort.

There are two methods for general warming up — the athletic (running) and the gymnastic (stretching).

Either, or both, are essential if you want to avoid injuries — particularly in cold weather.

Gutendorf's triumph

What about Fiji's 2-0 victory over New Zealand?

Last time they met — during the 1981 World Cup qualifying series — New Zealand won by a staggering 13-0!

So Fiji now is a 15-goal better side!

And who's responsible for the remarkable improvement?

Apparently it's Rudi Gutendorf, our former Socceroo coach.

Rudi, who is coaching Fiji at the moment, must be doing a great job.

I read in an article recently that he's made the Guinness Book of Record for having had the most coaching jobs in soccer.

New NSL needs more than local derbies

By ANDREW DETTRE



A return to the "local derbies" has been pronounced as the latest quick-fix to get soccer's wagon back on the rails.

My, oh, my — how we forget... How we forget, for instance, that boredom with these so-called "local derbies" was one of the reasons for triggering off the birth of the NSL (nee PSL).

The philosophy in 1977 was that a championship with "interstate character" would produce the crowds. And it did — for awhile.

The argument now runs that when two local teams meet, the supporters of both will attend the match. But do they always?

We have made a brief study of the matter, taking the last pre-NSL season as a guide.

We reproduce here the 1976 and 1983 crowd figures for "local derbies" — with one big proviso: the announced crowds were then just as unreliable as they are now. The question that may arise is — when did the clubs fib better, then or now?

	1983	1976	+
Apia v St George	1500	4320	-2730
Sydney City v Marconi	1284	1170	+ 114
Olympic v Sydney City	6283	3114	+3170
Marconi v Olympic	6432	3000	+1632
Sydney City v St George	2984	2681	+ 303
Olympic v St George	4481	3560	+ 921
Sydney City v APIA	1350	2536	-1186
Marconi v APIA	7560	4625	+2935
APIA v Olympic	6544	6511	- 67
Sydney City v Olympic	6800	3220	+3580
St George v Sydney City	2900	1500	+1400
Olympic v Marconi	5467	5052	+ 415

Some interesting conclusions can be reached from these figures.

The attendances at local derbies in Sydney NSL matches went up by an average of 874 a game since 1976.

If you remove ALL APIA figures, the average increase jumps to 1443 a match!

So the 1976 State League was not all that it's cracked up to have been...

Clearly, APIA's crowd-collapse and Olympic's spectacular surge forward are the keys to this whole exercise.

With the exception of their match at Marconi — and most of the crowd was local-based, no doubt — APIA's local derby figures are down sharply on its 1976, pre-NSL levels.

The forced change of name from APIA to Leichhardt, the terrible ground conditions and the team's fall from

pre-eminence in the competition all have played their part in this decline.

Olympic, on the other hand, appears to have increased its crowds sharply — at times doubling them. With the sole exception of its away match at APIA.

Marconi's local derby crowds were all higher in 1983 than in 1976 — and the same applies to Sydney City Hakoah and St. George Budapest, again the exception being their APIA clashes.

It could be the subject of another, fascinating study to find the reasons for the renewed interest of Greek fans and the disenchantment of the city-Italians — but the facts speak loudly enough.

There simply is no denying that professional or even semi-professional soccer would be impossible without the Greek fans — not just because they love the game but because they are so numerous.

What about the drawing power of Croatia Sydney, so often quoted as another savior of our soccer?

Taking its match figures of 1976 against Sydney's current NSL teams, Croatia drew an average of 2367 at home and 2632 away in its 10 matches. So there goes another myth!

In case you doubt it, these are the breakdowns:

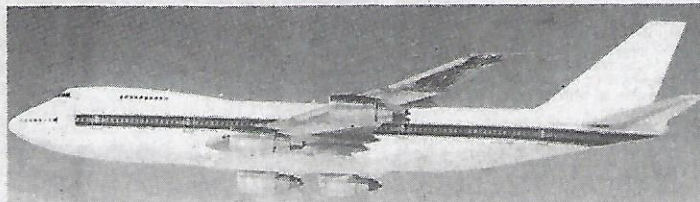
	Home	Away
Croatia v St. George	2010	2201
Sydney City	700	1025
APIA	2060	3619
Olympic	562	3065
Marconi	1500	3250
Average:	2367	2632

All this doesn't necessarily prove that the proposal to split the NSL into groups, increase matches with pure local flavor and cut down on travel costs is not a progressive and probably worthwhile move.

But, I'm afraid, this partitioning on its own won't be enough to perform miracles.

The disillusioned Italian, Hungarian, Jewish and Croatian fans must be lured back — not with tricks and gimmicks but with attractive, skilful soccer competently refereed and staged in decent surroundings.

And that's much harder to achieve than changing the format of the NSL.



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Enemies before, now pals. Adelaide City's Dixie Deans (right) and John Perrin (both in white shirts) join the West celebrations as Peter Boyle empties a champagne bottle. Others pictured are Neil McGachey and Ian McGregor, Peter Tymczyszyn and coach Jim Adam, just above him. Vic Bozanic is on the extreme left.

Aug. 27: triumph for West Adelaide, despair for Hakoah, Marconi

Anatomy of a championship



Meno Toutsidis

ALAN WHITTLE SLIPS AWAY



Alan Whittle and his family quietly slipped out of Australia back to England last month without a journalist's eyebrow being raised.

Since being transfer-listed late last year by Preston Makedonia, Whittle learned the hard way about what it was like to be out of sight and out of mind.

Whittle found it hard to keep his name in the news. Having played as a full-time professional for years in England and winning a First Division championship with Everton along the way, the fair-haired midfielder was bitterly disillusioned with the lack of press interest shown in him this year as he remained at loggerheads with Makedonia over the signing of a new contract.

Whittle had a chance of being player-coach at Green Gully Ajax or Sunshine-George Cross. He shunned overtures from both clubs. State League, it seems wasn't for him. He also trained with Crocydon to no avail.

He joined Makedonia in 1981 on a two-year contract which made him arguably the high-



Alan Whittle

est-paid player in Australian soccer. Makedonia was loath to offer him similar terms when his contract came up for renewal at the end of last season.

Whittle played just 13 NSL games with Makedonia last year through injury and indifferent form.

He hopes to gain a managerial or coaching position in England. If he wants to play it's unlikely that Makedonia will put a transfer fee on his head.

Hindmarsh Stadium never had seen a more beautiful sight. Sixteen thousand fans packed the terraces, draped in blue and white or those famous zebra stripes.

It was of course the championship decider of 1978 — August 27 to be precise. Yes, indeed, five years ago this weekend.

Who would have predicted then, after West Adelaide Hellas had lifted the then PSL championship after a 1-1 draw with Adelaide City Juventus on the final day of the season, that the gleaming silver shield would return to Sydney the following year and remain there, at least until 1983.

It was a wonderful year if you believed in miracles.

If your name was Gerry Chaldi and the team was Sydney City or Eastern Suburbs Hakoah or whatever and you had been deprived of a second championship by a mere three minutes, it was a painful year.

It was even more painful if your name was Rale Rasic and you had seen your Marconi lose a six-point lead at the top of the table.

But pain for one team means ecstasy for another. It always has been like that.

White West Adelaide Hellas wallows in the bottom half of the NSL, it is, I suppose, an opportune time to reflect on that golden season of 1978.

It was a year which began quite unexpectantly — one point from the first three games including a 1-4 thrashing at home by St George Budapest.

Trouble was brewing within the club and after just two months John Margaritis decided West Adelaide had little potential and announced he would return to Melbourne to take charge of Heidelberg Alexander.

Margaritis stayed on until the ninth-round game against Marconi in Sydney.

Maybe he was right. West Adelaide was positively lame, losing 0-2 and hardly causing Marconi to raise a gallop.

Meanwhile, just across town, Heidelberg, in its last outing before the Margaritis take-over, was thrashing Olympic 3-1.

After the game I had an animated chat with West captain Neil McGachey. I was off to the US the next day for six weeks and McGachey had the effrontery to suggest West would not lose a game during my absence.

"We'll win our next six games," I recall him telling me.

He was of course wrong. They won eight in a row — a club record which still stands.

When Brisbane Lions ended that run in Brisbane on July 2, West had risen from eleventh spot to second, just two points behind Marconi.

Marconi down

Rasic's Marconi, which was massacred 4-0 by Adelaide City on the same day finally would relinquish top spot two weeks later.

West Adelaide would replace Marconi and as there until 4.15 pm on August 27. But they had some close calls in those last eight weeks.

A week after the Brisbane loss, Heidelberg came to town and Jim Campbell set West back on their heels with a brilliant opening goal.

But Graham Honeyman scored two memorable second half goals to spearhead a fantastic 3-2 win.

The following week, Footscray JUST led a 2-0 after 38 minutes but West, playing one man short after Graham Norris' expulsion, fought back to force a 2-2 draw.

Three weeks later, Bertie Mariani shot Marconi to a 1-0 lead after five minutes, but Norris and then David Pillans scored the goals which gave West a famous win in front of a 12,000 crowd.

But of course, nothing could compare with the drama of that final day.

West Adelaide shaped up against Adelaide City needing only a draw. Sydney City would take the title on goal difference only if it beat Olympic and West lost to its local rivals.

Adelaide City, which had lost 0-5 to South Melbourne Hellas the week before, was not supposed to have a chance.

But anyone who knew of the rivalry which existed between these two great clubs would have dismissed such talk.

This, then, is the anatomy of a championship.

In the small, austere dressing rooms, Neil McGachey threw a stick of chewing gum to Martyn Crook. He caught it. In another corner, Ian McGregor simply stared at the ceiling.

If West Adelaide Hellas felt the tension, the players were not yet showing it.

Fifteen long strides down the passageway, Adelaide City prepared itself for this piece de resistance.

There was a lot of back-slapping, joking and small talk. The mood was relaxed.

But 15 minutes before kick-off, the atmosphere changed in the West rooms. It was grim. The men gathered for battle had no more cheer than the sterile decor.

The realisation that defeat would end their championship dream had never been so acute.

2.23 pm. It was time. Adelaide City then under the guidance of Les Scheinflug, wearing its alternative strip, strode onto the pitch first. West Adelaide followed moments later.

There two sides had duelled in some magnificent epic; there was a feeling that this match, as important as it was, would be something special.

This is how the teams lined-up:

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS: Crook — Bozanic, Kambas, Jones, Reynolds — Boyle, McGachey, Pillans — Norris, Honeyman, McGregor.

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS: Marshall — B. Nyskohus, Besir, Lister, Yung — Perin, Marconi, Muniz — Northcote, Deans, J. Nyskohus.

War starts

In the opening five minutes, the teams collided without meeting. Both sides restrained themselves, merely testing the other. There would be no early goals.

But the ominous signs were there. City quickly slipped into its smooth-flowing well-organised game. West began nervously. Its passes went astray.

The war was now on. Deans fought a grim battle with Jones and Kambas, Nyskohus looked as incisive as he had all season.

It seemed like an hour had passed, yet only 15 minutes had gone.

After 20 minutes of exquisite tension, McGregor grabbed the first scoring chance — a sizzling 25-metre shot, narrowly wide of the right-hand post.

West began to make deep incisions in City's defence. Norris rose superbly to head over the bar while Honeyman failed to apply the vital touch with goalkeeper Peter Marshall stranded.

McGregor nearly punished him moments later after a moment of indecision.

Marshall leapt high for a chance but fumbled it. McGregor pounced on it in a flash but as he connected with his right foot Marshall dived heroically, blocking the attempt.

Thirty exhilarating minutes had gone.

But then the tension heightened again. Twice the game was stopped after players clashed. The first half ended — there were no goals.

City, which had looked ominously dangerous in the last few minutes of the first half, began to tighten its grip on the game. West's bench was quiet with concern.

A goal seemed imminent. It came in the 53rd minute. John Perin and John Besir stood over the ball 25 metres out to line-up a free kick.



GOAL: Vic Bozanic (extreme left) scores the championship-clinching goal while Frank Lister looks on ruefully.

Awards night Oct. 7

The Bill Fleming Medal for the Victorian State League player of the year will be presented at the City and Overseas Club in Dandenong Road, Windsor, on Friday, October 7.

Last year's winner, Peter Lewis of Ajax, is pictured with the medal (above).

Prizes for the Victorian NSL Player of the Year, the under 21 player of the year, coach of the year and referee of the year will also be awarded or the night, which is organised by the Victorian branch of the Australian Soccer Press Association.

ASPA also runs the NSL awards night, which will be staged in Melbourne on November 2.

Tickets to the Bill Fleming awards night are available from Les Shorrock (600 421 or 527 2808) or Jim Bakatsoulas (329 6581).

Previous winners of the Bill Fleming Medal are — 1971: Jim Pyrgolios (Hellas); '72: John Gardiner (George Cross); '73: Frank Micie (J.U.S.T.); '74: Jim Armstrong (Hellas); '75: Bill Vojtek (Juventus); '76: Tim Tansey (Slavia); '77: Mick Watkins (Juventus); '78: Tommy Cumming (Croatia); '80: Jimmie Dunne (Ajax); '81: Charlie Egan (Frankston); '82: Peter Lewis (Ajax).

Price for Bergers?

Heidelberg-Alexander is interested in former Arsenal midfielder David Price who has been given a free transfer list by his latest club, Crystal Palace.

Price was in Australia with Arsenal for a tournament against Celtic, Australia and Red Star, in 1977.

He scored 16 goals in 126 appearances for Arsenal and also played for Peterborough on loan.

Hungarian scandal — crime count soars!

In a Hungarian soccer scandal, 73 people are standing trial accused of rigging matches in a massive pools fraud amounting to \$970,000. So far 185 players, three officials and a coach have been suspended.

Werder Bremen's ace striker Rudi Voller is in demand and reports say Torino of Italy made a \$3 million offer for him after his 23 goals last season made him West Germany's top scorer.

Hansj Muller, the West German international ace now with Inter Milan, has finally married his long standing girl-friend Claudia Buehler, 25.

Johnny Rep, Holland's former World Cup star, recently returned home from France's St Etienne to PEC Zwolle for less than \$80,000. Now 31, Rep joins another Dutch international colleague in Piet Schrijvers, who is also with Zwolle.

Tony Schumacher, the F.C. Cologne and West German international keeper is scalp hunting these days. Schumacher wants the club to axe chief coach Rinus Michels and has severely rapped club manager Hannes Loher. He also wants former F.C. Cologne player Karl Heinz Thiesen to become chairman of the club.

Charlie Nicholas has to be told to pad up or face disciplinary action and a fine by Arsenal. Nicholas who broke a leg two years ago says he couldn't get used to wearing shin pads but will now toe the line. The former Celtic star had to leave the field with a twisted ankle in the Gunners recent friendly with West German side Bochum. Los Angeles Express who play in the US Football League are owned by 'Six Million Dollar Man' Lee Majors.

Watford dropped a claim when they signed Oldham midfielder Paul Atkinson. They offered \$180,000 for Atkinson which was rejected. It went to the Transfer Tribunal who ordered Elton John's side to pay up \$350,000!

Terry Curran, the 28 year old Sheffield United striker is interesting Arsenal, Manchester and Brighton club Watershead, Curran who has played under Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest, Tammy Docherty at Derby County, Lawrie McNamee at Southampton and Jack Charlton at Sheffield Wednesday was on loan last season to Everton. He is a match-winner.

From JIM COOK
our European
correspondent

Picture by LES SHOR.

BORAL BRICKS

Heidelberg sweep-er Charlie Yankos, who was overtaken by Phil O'Connor (Wollongong) last week, has hit back in the voting for the \$1500 Boral Bricks Player of the Year award.

Yankos was judged best of the match against Footscray J.U.S.T., and so draws level with O'Connor as joint leader in the voting.

David Ratcliffe (St. George) advanced to fifth place, and Zarko Odzakovic (Makedonia) to equal sixth.

Marshall Soper (Olympic) remains the top contender for the Boral Bricks \$1000 top scorer's award. He has 11 goals, one more than John Bradley of APIA. Bradley failed to take advantage of Soper's absence last week due to injury.

Doug Brown (SM-Hellas) made the strongest advance, scoring twice against his former club, Makedonia, to boost his season's tally to eight.

Of all the strikers in the league, Brown looks the most likely to end the season as top scorer, due to his flair, determination and shooting power.

This week's votes:
PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 4 (Brown 2, Petrovski own goal, Jones own goal) at Connor Reserve. Crowd about 10,000. Votes by Laurie Schwab:

6. Murphy (SM), 5. Brown (SM), 4. Russell (SM), 3. Odzakovic (Mak), 2. Yzendoorn (SM), 1. Egan (SM).

BRISBANE CITY 0 BRISBANE LIONS 0 at Spencer Park. Crowd about 2000. Votes by Ricky Rosso:

6. Wright (BL), 5. Wishart

(BC), 4. Vincent (BL), 3. Perry (BC), 2. Fabrizio (BC), 1. J. Stewart (BL).
WOLLONGONG 1 (Dickson) MARCONI-FAIRFIELD 1 (Vardareff own goal, 80th) at Ziems Park. Crowd about 2000. Votes by Philip Micallef:

6. Henderson (M), 5. Vilieta (W), 4. Sermanni (M), 3. Dickson (W), 2. O'Connor (W), 1. Dunleavy (W).

ST GEORGE BUDAPEST 1 (Petkovski) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd 6283. Votes by Peter Scott:

6. Yankos (H), 5. Macleod (H), 4. Campbell (H), 3. Kyriakoules (JUST), 2. Paton (JUST), 1. McDowell (JUST).

NEWCASTLE KB UNITED 5 (Mountford 2, Mason 2, Jones) CANBERRA ARROWS

0 at Adamstown Oval. Crowd 2340. Votes by Joe Lanzoni:

6. Senkalski (N), 5. Gosling (N), 4. Mason (N), 3. Farina (C), 2. Jones (N), 1. Watson (N).

APIA LEICHHARDT 0 SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 0 at Lambert Park. Crowd 4196. Votes by Alex Vesic:

6. Bertogna (APIA), 5. Mariani (APIA), 4. Robertson (SC), 3. Carter (APIA), 2. Butler (APIA), 1. Pezzano (SC).

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 2 (Mullen, Villani) WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 at Olympic Sports Field. Crowd 2800. Votes by Meno Toudis:

6. Villani (AC), 5. Melta (AC), 4. Flounders (AC), 3. Mullen (AC), 2. McNally (AC), 1. Honeyman (WA).

Leaders:

60. Yankos (H), O'Connor (W).

52. Davidson (SM), 51. Banfield (AC), 50. Ratcliffe (St. G), 46. Greedy (St. G), Odzakovic (Mak), 26. Perry (BC), 26. G. Watson (N), Villani (AC), Gray (APIA), 25. T. Byrne (C), Blair (SM), S. O'Connor (SC), Melta (AC), Wishart (BC).

Top scorers:

11. Soper (SO), 10. Bradley (SO), 9. Kosmina (SC), O'Connor (W), Lucchesi. Ward (Mak), 8. Bryant (C), Egan, D. Brown (SM), Mountford (N).

7. R. Brown (M), Cotton (W).

6. Hamilton (BC), Katholos (SO), Gomex (SC), Paton (JUST), Lowe (N), Mullen (AC).

5. Gibson (C), Jankovics, Bozanic (M), Paterson (SO), Slater (St. G), Lea (H), Morrell (APIA), Wright (BL), Odzakovic (Mak), Mason (N).

4. Sermanni (Mar), 44. Bryant (C), Burke (N), 40. Kyriakoules (JUST), 39. Jones (Mak), Lowe (N), Bradley (APIA).

38. Wright (BL), 36. Hozowski (C), Heys (WA), Bertogna (APIA).

35. Honderson (M), Crino (SM), Carroll (JUST), Tokesi (BC).

34. Honeyman (WA), B. Nyskhus (AC).

33. Farina (C), R. Stewart (BL), Vlietstra (W), Luccesi, G. Campbell (Mak).

32. Boland (JUST).

31. Katholos (SO), Sken (St. G), Hunter (BL), Mariani (APIA).

30. Murphy, Halford (SM), Paterson (SO), J. Watson

YANKOS FIGHTS BACK

BORAL BRICKS

We can help you build it.

Ward, Lucchesi, McMillan out

Weekend NSL matches with likely winners in capitals:

SATURDAY

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH v. West Adelaide Hellas at Sydney Athletic Field, 3 pm.

Record: Hak. 10 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss, 32:10 goals.

SUNDAY

Heidelberg-Alexander v. St. George Budapest (draw) at Olympic Village, 3 pm.

Record: level at 4 wins, 2 draws, 4 losses each, and 20:20 goals.

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. v. Wollongong at Schintler Reserve, 3 pm.

Record: Wgong 3 wins, 1 draw, 0 loss, 7:4 goals.

Canberra Arrows v. PRESTON MAKEDONIA at Bruce Stadium, 3 pm.

Record: Can. 2 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss, 4:6 goals.

Adelaide City Juventus v. SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS at Olympic Sports Field, 2:30 pm.

Record: Adel. C. 4 wins, 4 draws, 4 losses, 13:11 goals.

Marconi-Fairfield v. NEWCASTLE KB UNITED at Marconi Stadium, 3 pm.

Record: Marc. 5 wins, 0 draw, 5 losses, 16:14 goals.

Brisbane Lions v. APIA-LEICHHARDT at Richlands, 3 pm.

Record: APIA 3 wins, 3 draws, 2 losses, 9:5 goals.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v. Brisbane City at St. George Stadium, 3 pm.

Record: Brish. C. 5 wins, 2 draws, 3 losses, 15:16 goals.

Hills in shock climb

Para Hills has overtaken Croatia at the top of the South Australian State League table.

Their 2-0 win over Elizabeth, coupled with Croatia's shock 0-1 loss to Campbelltown, has both sides locked on 21 points with two matches to go.

Beograd holds onto third spot despite drawing 1-1 with Birkalla. West and Azzurri also drew 0-0 and trail fourth placed Polonia (18 points) on goal difference.

The championship looks certain to be decided in the last round of the season in two

weeks when Para confronts Croatia at Para Hills. Ironically, the sides met on the same ground on the last day of the 1981 season when Croatia got the point it needed to win the championship.

The results: Azzurri 0, West Adelaide 0; Polonia 2, Port Adelaide 1; Birkalla 1, Beograd 1; Para Hills 2, Elizabeth 0; Campbelltown 1, Croatia 0.

	W	D	L	F	A
Para Hills	8	3	2	17	21
Croatia	8	3	4	20	21
Beograd	7	3	5	36	19
Polonia	7	4	5	27	18
West	7	4	5	27	18
Azzurri	6	6	4	21	16
Birkalla	5	5	6	28	16
Campy	4	5	7	21	39
Elizabeth	4	4	8	17	25
Port	1	3	12	12	42

NSL team of the week

In brackets: No. of appearances in team of the week.

WISHART (3)
(Brisb. City)

BERTOOGNA (3)
(APIA)

RATCLIFFE (4)
(St. George)

YANKOS (6) **MACLEOD (1)**
(Heidelberg) (Heidelberg)

MURPHY (4) **SENKALSKI (3)** **VILLANI (1)**
(SM-Hellas) (Newcastle) (Adel. City)

WRIGHT (3) **D. BROWN (1)** **MULLEN (2)**
(Brisb. Lions) (SM-Hellas) (Adel. C.)

By LAURIE SCHWAB



Beaten 4-0 by Hellas last weekend, league leader Makedonia faces probably its toughest match of the season when it goes to Canberra on Sunday without Claude Lucchesi, Garry Ward and George McMillan.

Lucchesi and Ward have scored nine goals each so far. Ward is out injured for three weeks and Lucchesi is off to the U.S. on a business trip.

McMillan, the team captain, is suspended for the second time this season, after being sent off during last Sunday's match.

Player-coach Peter Ollerton will come into the team to replace one of the strikers. The other probably will be Alex Livingstone who has been on the bench or in the reserves since joining Makedonia from Scotland.

If Makedonia fails to beat Canberra, it is almost certain that Sydney City Hakoah will take over at the top of the ladder.

Hakoah, with Joe Watson having recovered from the flu, and Ian Souness back at his best after his honeymoon, meets West Adelaide Hellas at the Sydney Athletic Field.

Hakoah's record against West Adelaide certainly points to another victory. In 12 clashes between the two sides, Hakoah has won 10 and drawn one.

Third-placed Newcastle, now only four points from the lead and in a mean mood after having beaten Canberra 5-0, appears to be back at its best, and knows it cannot afford to lose to Marconi at Marconi Stadium if it hopes to maintain its challenge for the championship.

In fact, Newcastle would go to the top of the ladder if both Makedonia and Hakoah lose.

Channel O's "Match of the Day" cameras will be at the Olympic Village where Heidelberg-Alexander takes on St. George Budapest, which aims to finish at least in the top four, as it is possible that the top four series will be revived this season.

Heidelberg's run of outs ended when it drew with Footscray J.U.S.T., and I think the match against St. George will result in another draw.

The two defences are tops, but neither forward line has been productive lately, although by all reports, Dez Marton was in fine form for St. George last weekend.

Heidelberg has potentially deadly scorers in Gary Cole, Derek Lea and Jim Campbell, but it remains to be seen whether they have mustered sufficient determination to break down the David Ratcliffe - Mike O'Shea partnership, backed up so brilliantly by goalkeeper Terry Greedy.

Adelaide City Juventus will miss midfielder Les Carter in its match against South Melbourne Hellas at the Olympic Sports Field. Carter, one of six players booked against West Adelaide is suspended for a week.

South Melbourne Hellas, on the other hand, has stopper Steve Blair back after suspension, and the team is in fine spirits after seven weeks without defeat.

Blair's return means that Alan Davidson will move back into the midfield. Steve Woodin probably will be out again, as he was injured against Makedonia.

Hellas certainly is the team to watch. It is playing brilliantly and if it keeps on winning, it still could take out the title.

Footscray U.S.T., also undefeated for seven weeks, hasn't beaten Wollongong since the Wolves entered the NSL, but with Igor Hazabent and Zdrako Lujic available again, it should break through at Schintler Reserve on Sunday.

Lujic was out injured against Heidelberg, and Hazabent was out because work commitments had prevented him from training.

A highlight of the match will be the duel between Wollongong's No. 1 player, Phil O'Connor, and whoever marks him - probably Suleiman Curovic.

Sydney Olympic dropped out of the title race when it lost to St. George last weekend, but it still aims to compete in the top four series, if it is revived, and so it will be determined to beat Brisbane City at home, even though Brisbane City has held the upper hand over Olympic in past matches.

Marshall Soper will be back after serving a suspension, and he's eager to win "Soccer Action's" \$1000 top scorer's award.

APIA-Leichhardt, another contender for the top four, has the misfortune of running into Brisbane Lions, who seem to have a new lease of life, despite a couple of unfortunate developments over the past week.

Star defender Alan Hunter is out for the rest of the year due to injury, and coach Simon Kistemaker has announced he will quit the club and return to Europe at the end of the season because he does not want to continue "lowering his standards."

But Danny Wright, the Stewart brothers, Alan Niven and Bobby McKimmie are in fine form for Lions and should give APIA a tough game.

That does not mean, however, that Lions will win.



• Kistemaker



• Livingstone

National League standings

Last week's standings in brackets.

		HOME					AWAY					Gls	Pts
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1.	(1) Preston Makedonia	8	2	1	22	11	3	5	2	12	9	34:20	40
2.	(2) Sydney City Hakoah	7	3	0	18	6	4	3	4	12	16	30:22	39
3.	(3) Newcastle KB United	6	3	3	18	7	5	0	4	18	11	36:18	36
4.	(7) St. George Budapest	5	4	1	12	7	3	4	4	11	12	23:19	32
5.	(8) St. Melbourne Hellas	4	3	4	14	14	5	2	3	16	14	30:28	32
6.	(4) Sydney Olympic	5	2	3	17	9	4	2	5	13	12	30:21	31
7.	(5) APIA-Leichhardt	7	2	2	22	9	2	1	7	11	17	33:26	30
8.	(6) Marconi-Fairfield	5	2	3	19	15	3	4	4	15	14	34:29	29
9.	(10) Brisbane City	4	5	2	17	15	3	4	8	17	17	25:32	29
10.	(9) Canberra Arrows	6	3	1	23	10	2	1	8	12	25	35:35	28
11.	(13) Adelaide City Juventus	4	2	5	12	32	3	2	6	13	15	25:27	25
12.	(11) Footscray J.U.S.T.	4	3	3	11	7	2	4	5	6	15	17:32	25
13.	(14) Heidelberg-Alexander	5	2	3	13	7	0	6	5	7	19	20:26	23
14.	(12) West Adelaide Hellas	4	4	4	13	15	1	4	4	11	17	17:26	23
15.	(15) Brisbane Lions	5	0	5	18	16	0	4	7	8	26	26:42	19
16.	(16) Wollongong	0	7	3	13	16	2	3	6	16	24	28:41	17

PATRICK

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**A.P.I.A. 0
Syd. City 0**
Ground: Lambert Park
Crowd: 4196
Referee: Gary Power 5
Yellow cards: Gomez, O'Connor (SC), Butler (A).
A.P.I.A.: Parks 7, Carter 7, Brown 6, Bertogna 8, Mariani 8, Butler 7, Gray 6, Morsello 6, P. Tredinnick 6, Sharne 5 (Vallari 82).
SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH:
Pazzano 7, Cant 6, Robertson

8, O'Connor 7, Souness 5, Gomez 6, Watson 6, Barnes 6, Borges 5 (de Marigny 5 - 38'), Kosmina 6, Murray 6.
An important top of the table clash turned into a kicking duel with 74 free kicks given during the play, as each side tried desperately to assert its superiority in strength rather than skill.
Gary Power failed to provide that little space left for some entertainment by con-

stantly stopping play for the smallest of infringements and in the end we had some 4,000 spectators very disappointed with the day's soccer.
I feel the referee would have done far better to use his card from the opening bell and not after the game had got out of hand.
APIA had some territorial advantage during the opening period and came close to scoring after Arno Bertogna

headed just over the bar from a cross by John Bradley, but that apart, it was one hell of a physical tussle that rarely produced any reason for excitement.
Tony Pezzano dived at Morsello's feet just after the restart, then Parks made a good save from Barnes after some 63 minutes. Willie Murray was foiled in the 77th minute after a good break by Hakoah then a shot by Kosmina was deflected for a corner close to the end.
Bertogna and Mariani for APIA, and Robertson for Hakoah were the most prominent players on the day.

But what about Peter Sharne or Ian Souness. Tony Morsello and Gerardo Gomez. John Kosmina and Jim Cant. Joe Watson and Murray Barnes. Terry Butler or John Bradley — players who should by name or form produce the goods to entertain this 4,000 strong crowd hungry for good football — entertaining, not depressing.
Sharne was disappointing once again at Lambert Park. He hardly touched the ball and rarely attempted to beat his opponent. One would hope that with time the old Fairfield Bullet will improve.

Souness, regarded by most as one of the finest midfielders in the country, was a fullback. His usual attacking flair was missing. He was beaten on numerous occasions during the first 45 minutes after a simple 1-2, and it was obvious to all that this fine player should be in the midfield.

Soonest, regarded by most as one of the finest midfielders in the country, was a fullback. His usual attacking flair was missing. He was beaten on numerous occasions during the first 45 minutes after a simple 1-2, and it was obvious to all that this fine player should be in the midfield.

Mullen and Villani end losing run

**Adel. City 2
West Adel. 0**
WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS:
Sprout 7 — Papazoglou 6, Hiem 6, Dunn 7, Amey 7 — Doorne 6, Atsalas 6, Brown 6 — Heys 7, Honeyman 7, Calandaris 6 (McGregor 70th).
ADELAIDE CITY JUVEN-
TUS: McNally 8 — Dods 7, Banfield 8, Flounders 7, Cole 7 — Malta 7, Blair 7, Carter 7 — Rankin 7, Villani 8, Mullen 8.
Venue: Olympic Sports Field.
Goals: Mullen 58th, Villani 85th.
Cautions: AC — Carter, Banfield, Flounders; WA — Brown, Amey, Atsalas.
Crowd: 2800
Referee: Don Campbell 7.

With Paul Wormley gone, the bulk of the responsibility has fallen on the shoulders of Graham Honeyman and Graham Heys, who really do need the support of an experienced third striker to break down defences.
George Calandaris simply was not up to it and coach Alan Vest was forced to replace the young forward with Ian McGregor late in the second half.
West also has some major deficiencies in the midfield, a chronic problem which has not been helped with a three-week club ban of Mick Brennan who returns this weekend.

Joe Mullen and Charlie Villani struck second-half goals to keep West Adelaide near the foot of the national league table.
Adelaide City, meanwhile, jumped above its local rival after only its second win in the past 11 matches.
Co-incidentally, both sides went into this match with just one win in 10 matches — both against Brisbane Lions.

Adelaide City was clearly pleased with its success while West Adelaide, which this week celebrates the fifth anniversary of its NSL success by playing Sydney City, gave every impression it has abandoned all hope for 1993.

If you use one of these



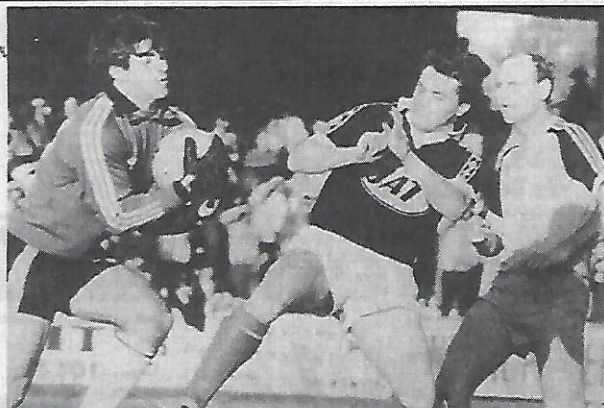
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Heidelberg goalkeeper Spiros Kardamitsis (left), making his NSL debut, foiled J.U.S.T. striker Jamie Paton. At right is Jim Tansey, the Heidelberg captain. Photo by LES SHORROCK.

Kistemaker quits, Vincent excels

**Brisb. City 0
Brisb. Lions 0**
Venue: Spencer Park.
Crowd: About 2000.
Cautions: BL: Vasquez, John Stewart, Russell Stewart, McKimming, Niven. BC: Caird, Wilkinson.
Referee: Dave Nugent 7.
CITY: Wishart 9, Caird 7, Perry 8, Liddell 7, Wilkinson 7, Fabrizio 8, Pimblett 7, Hamilton 7, Williamson 6, Falco 6, Glockner 5 (Bromfield 70th).
LIONS: Beves 7, McKimming 7, Vasquez 7, Vincent 8, Niven 7, R. Stewart 6, J. Stewart 8, Hogg 7, Daunt 7, Wright 9, McDonagh 7 (Ogden 59th).
Brisbane Lions overcame the setbacks, including the announcement that their coach Simon Kistemaker was returning to Europe at the end of the season, to score a hard-fought scoreless draw with Brisbane City at Spencer Park.
Just as they did in the first round when they won 4-0, Lions contested every loose ball to bustle City off its game. The

offer for next year with the Belgian Second Division club Turnhout.
Everything looked stacked against Lions.
But the critics didn't count on the fighting strength of those Lions players.
Former St George youngster Brett Beves came in as a replacement for keeper Lownds and although hardly pressured, did nothing wrong and could hold the place for several weeks.
But the trump card proved to be former Heidelberg player Rob Vincent, who has been sidelined for the past month with a severe hamstring injury.
Kistemaker was determined to get Vincent on the park and trained him twice daily in the week leading up to the derby. The extra work paid off and Vincent was a tower of strength in the stopper's position.
He won balls in the air, tackled doggedly and urged his team-mates to keep fighting.
With Hunter expected to make a quick return from his operation, Vincent will be moved into the midfield, which should — for the first time in months — allow Kistemaker to pick the team he wants.
City began strongly but it was Lions who looked like scoring first.
But the action swung to the other end and City's Bobby Hamilton had the chance of the match in the 75th minute.
The wee Scot used all his skills to delightfully weave his way past four Lions defenders to get into the penalty box with only Beves to beat. Hamilton had done all the hard work and seemed to have a simple task ahead but steered his shot wide to bomb what turned out to be City's last scoring chance.
Lions on the other hand finished strongly and in the 81st minute many thought the deadlock had been broken when a John Stewart shot rocketed towards the top left hand corner.
But the ball clipped the bottom of the upright and rebounded down and away.

But before the match critics were predicting a whitewash. First Lions lost stopper Alan Hunter, who had a knee cartilage operation last Friday. Then Nigel Lownds was ruled out with a broken finger while John Ogden was in extreme doubt with a suspected hernia.
To add to the problems, the news broke that Kistemaker was not renewing his contract with Lions.
He had decided to return to Europe in October and accept

an offer for next year with the Belgian Second Division club Turnhout.
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But the ball clipped the bottom of the upright and rebounded down and away.

Selemidis, Hazabent, Lujic out!

**Heidelberg 0
Foots JUST 0**
Ground: Olympic Village
Attendance: 2000
Referee: S. Zoumas 6.
Cautions: Kyriakoulas, O'Donnell.
Goal: Ken Morton.

Heidelberg put the brakes on its slide down the table with an improved performance and may consider itself unlucky not to have come out of this game with the three points.

With most of the drive coming from central defenders Charlie Yankos and Don Macleod, the side took control in the second half after holding out against the swirling wind in the opening 45 minutes.

The Berghs hit the bar twice through Yankos and Theo Selemidis, while Macleod came within centimetres of connecting with a Yankos freekick to head into the net.

Yankos returned to his authoritative best at sweeper to give new keeper Spiro Kardamitsis much-needed reassurance and also made a number of incisive forward runs, capping his day with the shot of the match — a scorching drive from 30 metres which Dennis Boland did well to palm onto the bar and away for a corner after 78 minutes.

The save compensated for some of Boland's earlier unsure handling which put JUST in all sorts of bother.

The experienced keeper seemed unusually suspect on cross balls and created danger for his side in three corner-kick situations.
Defenders managed to clear two of them while the framework came to his rescue in the other case, stopping a Theo Selemidis header after Jim Campbell's corner in the 65th minute.

Selemidis came on as substitute for Scott Patterson after being dropped from the starting line-up along with Jeff

Olver following Heidelberg's 0-3 defeat to Sydney Olympic the previous week.

Kardamitsis, making his NSL debut as Olver's replacement, started off well, pulling off a brilliant reflex save from Jamie Paton's shot on the turn in the 17th minute. But he too dropped a clanger after 35 minutes, diving spectacularly but completely missing a Brian O'Donnell cross. A Heidelberg defender cleared the danger but the keeper's confidence was slightly rattled from then on and one wonders what would have happened if J.U.S.T. had created any other real scoring chances from then on.

Paton was J.U.S.T.'s most dangerous forward, managing to turn in three tight situations to have a pop at goal but was narrowly off target with his shooting.

The one time he managed to get the ball in the net, connecting with a Vlatko Belic cross in the 69th minute, the goal was disallowed for offside.

J.U.S.T. coach Bobby McLachlan admitted a number of his players made "uncharacteristic mistakes, giving away simple balls" after working hard to win them in the first place but he was quite happy with the draw.

"A draw is better for us than it was for them. The standard was not the best but there was a lot of tension, with both teams attaching a lot of importance to the game," he said.

In true McLachlan fashion, the J.U.S.T. line-up sprang a surprise, with the relegation of captain Igor Hazabent to the bench but the coach later explained the defender had missed training all week through work commitments.

Gary McDowell was moved to the defensive spot and did a good job marking Gary Cole. Kyri Kyriakoulas and Graham Tutill also played well and seem to be establishing a good understanding.



Tim Brown of West Adelaide wins an aerial duel against Adelaide Juven's opponents Stewart Blair (centre) and Charlie Villani, with Neil Banfield (left) in the background. Picture: FRANK HOBBS.

Charitable Wolves!

**Wollongong 1
Marconi 1**
Scorers: Dickson (W) 79th, Vardareff (W) own goal 80th.
Referee: Lorenz 8
Venue: Ziems Park
Crowd: 2000
Cautions: Rizzotto (M) and Calderon (M)
WOLLONGONG: Vardareff 7, Willis 7, Vilesttra 8, Dunleavy 7, Fleming 7, Dummett 6 (Gaffney 67th), Ainsworth 7, Kerr 7, Dickson 8, Cotton 7, O'Connor 7.
MARCONI FAIRFIELD: James 7 — Bosanick 6, Henderson 8, Calderon 6, Rizzotto

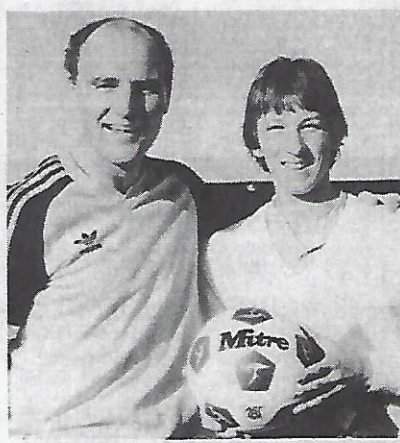
6 — Carbone 6, Sermanni 8, McCulloch 7, Licata 7, Brown 6, Djordjevic 6.
Wollongong's penchant of giving away silly goals cost them a shock victory over high-flying Marconi in a gripping match at Ziems Park.
The Wolves had just taken the lead with a late goal from the fast-improving Dickson when a collective error in defence let Marconi off the hook.
Two Wollongong players and goalkeeper Vardareff went for a high ball but Vardareff appeared to be pushed as he tried

to grab the ball which finished in the back of the net for a classic own goal.
In a lively first half both Calderon — with a header — and O'Connor — with a cross-shot — were unfortunate to hit the upright while Cotton missed a good chance by shooting wide after beating Bozanic with a body feint.
Five minutes from half time Vilesttra saves his side by chesting the ball away on the line after a furious melee in the Wolves penalty area.
After the break the three Wollongong forwards began to combine better and Henderson did well to knock the ball away

as O'Connor was rushing in for the kill.
On the half hour, as Wollongong pressure mounted, the home side went into the lead when Dickson rose well to head a far post free kick from Willis into the net.
Soon afterwards came the defensive blunder which saved Marconi and which left Wollongong at the bottom of the League.

Philip Micallef

Mitchell Pilbom (right) receives from Heidelberg-Al exander captain Jim Tansey the Mitre soccer ball he won in "Soccer Action's" latest picture caption contest. The prize was presented at the Heidelberg — J.U.S.T. game last Sunday.



Biscaya, Petkovski answer the Doc

St George 1
Syd. Olympic 0

Venue: St George Stadium.
Attendance: 6283.
Scorer: Petkovski (60th min).

Cautions: Slater (St G).

ST GEORGE BUDAPEST:

Greedy 7, Sken 8, Ratcliffe 9,

Biscaya 8, R. O'Shea 7, Pet-

kovski 7, Barton 6, J. O'Shea

7, Slater 7, Wilkinson 8,

Morton 8.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier

7, Coedy 7, Herbert 7, Deane

7, Jennings 7, Patikas 6,

Rogers 6, Phillips 8, Kothalos

7, Paterson 5, Kalantzis 8.

Soccer's war of words be-

tween Budapest's Frank

Arok and Olympic's Tommy

Docherty was replaced by

some action on the football

field for an hour and a half

— with the Saints coming

out narrow but convincing

winners.

The two coaches' dis-

putation was triggered by

Docherty's continuous criti-

cism of Arok's methods and

the performance of his team,

virtually since the season's

start.

Now, however, the Doc

should run up the white flag.

After all, Arok's boys have

beaten his bunch in both their

NFL clashes this year.

Mind you, Olympic is still

one of a large bunch of aspi-

nants for a top-three spot, but

cool self-analysis would serve

Docherty better than bluster

in the final nine rounds of play.

The Saints' three points

were grabbed by elegant

younger Peter Petkovski in

the 60th minute.

He neatly chested down a

ball from Robbie Slater, slip-

ped past the defenders and



Peter Scott

gently lobbed inside the post,

out of advancing Gary Meier's

reach.

In an action-packed encoun-

ter, the score could quite

easily have been much higher,

with both teams missing six

good chances, five of them in

an incredible four-minute

burst in the first 15 minutes.

Two of the Budapest near-

misses were saved off the line

by Herbert and Phillips.

A jubilant Arok was too busy

savoring his triumph over

Docherty to contemplate what

lies ahead, but he has a

number of options.

Mike O'Shea has now served

his suspension, and Peter

Stone, the Saints' skipper, is

also available.

The latter's non-appearance

was put down to a bout of flu,

but his coach later said Stone

was dropped for lack of per-

formance.

"Nobody is in the team auto-

matically, and Peter was the

first to find this out," Arok

said.

Anyone who doesn't per-

form to satisfaction will find

himself in a similar position."

Der Marton, for one, has

obviously taken the coach's

tough attitude to heart, as the

Hungarian veteran played his

best match of the year.

He was sharper, faster and

more determined than at any

time previously and with an

ounce of luck, could have

scored.

Paul Wilkinson, another

player whose presence in the

Saints' line-up has often been

of questionable value, also was

at his very best up front.

But the top stars for the

winners were international

sweeper David Ratcliffe, who

played a flawless game apart

from a couple of hasty clear-

ances over the sidelines, and

18-year-old novice Geoff Bis-

caya.

The schoolboy prodigy, an-

other in a growing line blooded

by the Saints, absolutely ob-

literated Olympic's lanky stri-

ker Steve Paterson.

If the news was cheerful for

Arok, Docherty will have other

things to worry about this

week, besides the relative

merits of rival teams and

coaches.

Like how to get Marshall

Soper, badly missed up front,

to concentrate on soccer in-

stead of private wars which

can get him suspended.

Or, how to recast Olympic's

style of play in a manner

which will allow the Greek

club to capitalise on the

talents so abundantly dis-

played by Jim Patikas when in

Sydney City's colors last year.

Perhaps he might even find

a spot in midfield for Peter

Katholos, where his creative

skills could be of more value

than in the hurly-burly up

front.

It won't be easy for the Doc,

who, although he may not as

yet realise, is in the employ of

a more volatile and demanding

bunch of soccer fans than even

the crowd he had to try to

please at Manchester United.

Fans of Olympic have been

thirsting for championship

success for decades and re not

convinced by their patience and

tolerance.

Makedonia 0
SM-Hellas 4

Goals: Petrovski own goal

20th; Brown 31st & 70th;

Jones own goal 54th.

Venue: Connor Reserve.

Crowd: about 10,000

Referee: Dennis Voutsinas

5.

Cautions: McMillan (Mak),

Petrovski (Mak).

Sent off: McMillan, 67th.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA:

Wilson 6, Todorovski 6,

Jones 4, Opanisic 6, Petrovski

5 — Odzakov 8, Farrell 5 (li-

liaski 6, half time), Flavell 6 —

McMillan 5 (sent off, 67th),

Luchesi 6, Campbell 4.

Coach: Peter Orlerton.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HEL-

LAS: Laumet 7, Davidson

7, Xanthopoulos 8, Russell 8,

Zyendorn 8 — Murphy 8,

Crino 6, Halford 7, Wooddin

6 (injured, sub Buljevic 6, Half

time), Brown 8, Egan 8.

Coach: Len McCandry.

What else could have gone

wrong for Makedonia, the

league leader? Ljube Pet-

rovski and David Jones both

scored own goals. George

McMillan was sent off, and

the team's performance

probably was the worst of

the season.

The only thing that went

right was that Sydney Hako-

had to beat APFA. Had it

done so, Hakoah would have

replaced Makedonia at the top

of the ladder.

Now Hellas is eyeing top

place. Its first-half perform-

ance against Makedonia was

quite brilliant, and its second

half extremely professional.

Hellas remains eight points

from the top, but mathemati-

cally it still can win the title,

as no team in the league is

playing better soccer.

It was a triumphant return

to Connor Reserve for Hellas

striker Doug Brown, who

scored the only two regular

goals of the match.

He was given a lot of stick

by the Makedonia fans who

once applauded him, so he took

great delight in demonstrating

his triumph each time he

scored.

George McMillan initially

had been assigned to mark

Brown, but when Gary Ward

pulled out of the match due to

injury, McMillan played in

attack instead.

Ljube Petrovski, who came

into the side after a long ab-

sence, got the job of marking

Brown, and Con Opanisic

marked Charlie Egan, the

other Hellas striker.

Wooddin, who was in the team

in place of suspended Steve

Blair, but because Wooddin

played on the left wing, Jones

found himself playing at right

back, with Petrovski and Opa-

nisic occupying the centre-

back positions.

Quite clearly, this was not

going to work.

After Petrovski had deflec-

ted a shot by Wooddin into the

net for an own goal, and

Branko Buljevic had come on

to replace Wooddin who was

limping, Makedonia saw the

light and reorganised its

defence.

Jones returned to his accu-

stomized central position, mark-

ing Brown, while Petrovski

went wide to pick up Buljevic.

But Makedonia was playing

a close-marking game in mid-

field as well, meaning at least

five players were preoccupied

with marking opponents

rather than plotting their own

attacks.

It meant that when a Make-

donia player did manage to get

the ball, most of the others were

in positions to accept a

pass.

The easiest way out,

therefore, was to boot the ball

up the field, hoping Claude

Luchesi may get to it ahead

of two or three defenders.

When Makedonia's attitude

changed — when they turned

from introverts into ex-

troverts — they already were

two goals down, and in a near-

hopeless position.

To their credit however,

they staged a short-lived re-

vival just before half time,

with Zarko Odzakov and Luc-

chesi having headers cleared

off the goal line by Bobby Rus-

sell and John Zyendorn.

Talking about Zyendorn, it

was ironical that it was he who

started most of Hellas's first-

half attacks — from the left

back position — while Make-

donia was scurrying about,

trying to mark everyone else.

Hellas's approach to the big

matches contrasted starkly



**SOCCER
ACTION**

CLUB CLOSE-UP

HEIDELBERG-BUNDOORA

Victorian Metropolitan League 3rd Div.



HEIDELBERG-BUNDOORA, back row: Brian McNary (committee), Ian Corlett (committee), C. Mowatt (Melbourne 1977), R. Harrop (Parkside United, Queensland 1983), T. Ralph (Chudley England 1978), J. O'Hanlon (West Suburbs 1977), S. Gaw (Doveton 1978), J. Georgiadis (Northcote City 1983), Tom Ashton (asst. Coach).

Front row: John Myles (Coach), B. Coyle (Preston Macedonia 1982), M. McQuilken (juniors), S. Davidson (Swindon Town 1968), G. Talbot (juniors 1978), B. Steritt (Heidelberg Utd, 1982), M. Hodgson (juniors 1979), Rick Kirwan (sponsor).

from

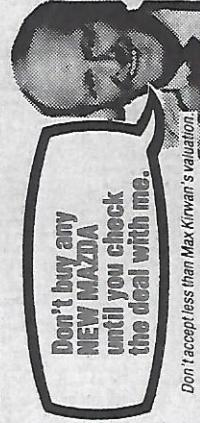
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New format of Crodon to NSL with new ground?

no benefit to Qld, S.A.

By JOHN VAN HOBOKEN

VSF life member,
former president of Wilhelmina

It would be fair if NSL chairman Sam Pappas admitted that the National League, which I fought against for ten years before it was formed, has been a failure.

It has been a failure mainly because expenses involved are too great, which is the main reason it has to be changed and split into two divisions — hardly a National League anymore.

What it actually means is that we would have a league in Victoria consisting of eight clubs from Victoria and two clubs from Queensland and two clubs from South Australia, and a league in New South Wales with probably two interstate clubs.

It escapes me how two clubs from Queensland or from Canberra and South Australia how possibly could compete with the eight clubs from Victoria.

The Victorian clubs would travel only four times interstate a year, while the two clubs from either of the other States would have to travel interstate ten times a season.

Their expenses would hardly be reduced and would be much higher than for the Victorian clubs and they also would have the disadvantage of playing less games in their own State, hence also the disadvantage of playing ten games without supporters.

I am convinced these clubs would not be able to continue doing so as they soon would find themselves at the bottom of the league and my feeling is that within two years we would be back to a league of 12 Victorian clubs, as the situation was in 1975 before the National League was formed.

I see the whole scheme as a face-saver for Sam Pappas and for the people who have created the National League.

I am surprised how this scheme ever could be passed by the State League Management Committee and by the Victorian Board of Management. It certainly is not in the interest of soccer and the State League and only serves the present National League clubs and four clubs of the State League.

It is a scheme by which three or four clubs in Victoria will obtain the benefit of greater attendances due to the strong support clubs like Hellas, Heidelberg and Makedonia have, while all other State League clubs will suffer as they will receive practically no publicity as the newspapers will concentrate on the newly-formed league.

I also cannot see how the State League clubs which join this special league can survive financially, as the affiliation fees will take away the advantage which they may have received from playing the above-mentioned three clubs.

I consider the attendance figures given in "Soccer Action" of 10th August 1983 as a joke. I am of the opinion that if the six clubs which are mentioned as candidates for the new league would open their books, the attendance figures would prove to be more correct and even excessive.

Croatia: home 1000, away 400; Juventus: 800, 250; Green Gully Ajax: 200, 100; Northcote: 200, 100; Polonia: 120, 80; Fawkner: 100, 50.

These figures are based on counting heads at games and not by looking into a crystal ball. How the editor expects these figures to increase when in the new league the same clubs play each other, is a mystery to me.

Attendances will certainly not increase because suddenly they play each other in a league under a new name.

Possibly Juventus and Croatia, with reasonable following, may survive financially after paying the high affiliation fees. The others in my opinion will go bankrupt, as also they would finish in the lower half of the new league.

The sooner we start realising that we have to create new supporters rather than reduce the number of clubs which benefit from soccer supporters still available, the sooner we will start again building up our gates.

We can create new supporters only by giving more attention to junior soccer and in particular giving schools more assistance to play soccer and form a stronger school competition.

It must be remembered that

people who follow a code have played this sport at one time in their life, therefore the more juniors who play soccer, the more people will follow soccer after they have given the game away.

I have for years claimed that we will never succeed in creating more supporters but will lose them if we continue with the 5-5-3 months season and ask supporters for \$7-7 months to do something else with their weekend. The break in soccer in other parts of the world is a maximum 5-3-3 months, which in my opinion is the best way of keeping supporters interested in the game.

I see therefore the best solution to solve the present mess is to ask or insist on the present National League clubs to rejoin the State League, which is more than we promised them in 1975 and form immediate action for season 1984 a State League of 18 clubs with the season running from the third week in February until the first week in November, which would give us 38 weeks to play 34 games. Also, in case immediately the number of clubs in each division and in junior soccer and for once we can promote soccer on the same basis as it is done in other countries.

There would be enough weekends left to play some Cup competitions and semi-finals and finals.

Soccer in Australia will never succeed by making a small number of clubs stronger and stronger at the expense of other clubs.

My proposal is therefore based on giving every club in Victoria and as such in Australia an equal chance to create the largest number of supporters and not favor the small number of clubs that strengthen themselves at the expense of all other clubs.

The threat of a breakaway may have influenced the decisions taken. Call their bluff. Make it well known that players who would play for the breakaway club would break FIFA rules and would be suspended and blacklisted, would never represent Australia and would not be able to play for any club other than the 24 which broke away.

Our World Cup camel

A horse designed by a committee is a camel . . .

This cynical old adage applies painfully well to our so-called World Cup sub-committee which has been muddling and bungling for years now.

For some mysterious reasons, the ASF formed this committee largely from people who are heads of States or other organisations.

Who are its? The head is Peter McCann, former president of NSW, now an independent and, together with ex-Olympic president John Constantine, the main contender to succeed Sir Arthur George as ASF boss.

The members are Queensland president Ian Bruscas, South Australian delegate Jim Karapitis, ASF treasurer Tom Grimson, NSW president Karl Rodney, Victorian chairman Mike Weinstein, NSL chairman and vice chairman Sam Pappas and Tony Labbozzetta, ASF secretary Brian Emery and ASF marketing director-cum-West Nally-representative Peter Sheehan.

Note the conspicuous absence of NSL manager Stefan Kamasz.

I do not know much about Karapitis, so I have to exempt him from all future remarks concerning the committee.

But I do know all the others — and I regard them as keen soccer people, able administrators, good fathers, devoted husbands and dedicated gardeners.

But few are equipped to serve on a World Cup sub-committee.

First — you have to be genuinely interested in the subject. I know Pappas, Lab-

Victorian State League club Crodon joined the race for places in the 1984 NSL last week and, if it gains NSL status, will move to new headquarters at Dorset Park, Crodon, a year ahead of schedule.

Crodon team manager and secretary, Laurie Cooper, says that only two new players would be needed if the club gains entry to the NSL.

"We bought Steve Irvine, Joe Sweeney, Gus Macleod and Steve Marley this year as part of our

push for the NSL. They weren't stop-gap signings. They all can be good NSL performers," said Cooper.

"At most we'd only need another defender and a midfielder to go into the NSL with a very strong squad."

Crodon's present headquarters, at Crodon Park, has fine social facilities. The club plans to use the clubrooms there next year while playing at nearby Dorset Park.

Crodon believes that the NSL bosses will be sympathetic to the club as it is the flag bearer of

soccer in Melbourne's eastern suburbs. Cooper understands that the NSL and VSF will reach agreement on fixtures, enabling the Melbourne-based NSL clubs to be the only major outfits competing on their particular match day, either a Saturday or Sunday.

Crodon's turnover this year will be just over \$250,000. It already is run as a small business and feels that it wouldn't have to drastically revamp its administration to cope with the rigors of running an NSL club.

AJAX A MUST FOR NSL SAYS BIG GUS

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

Green Gully Ajax should be the first Victorian State League club considered for a place in the 1984 NSL according to Crodon City striker Gus Macleod.

"Gully's record says it all. I can't understand all this talk about putting in clubs with bigger crowds. You've got to keep the standard of the NSL high. Even raise it if possible," said Macleod.

"You don't automatically improve attendances by simply putting new Croatian, Maltese, Italian or Polish clubs in the NSL. People have to watch a good standard game."

"And that's why I'm dead against the ASF move to cut down on imports. Okay, I understand that this move is meant to try and promote young, local players but to be honest, I don't see many of them coming through the ranks."

"You have to do your homework properly when you bring a player over here. If you're going to bring out someone in his late 20's then he's got to be of First Division standard in his own country. You need players who can contribute, guys like Joe Sweeney at Crodon and Gary McDowell at Footscray and my brother Don at Heidelberg. I was involved in fixing these guys up to come over here from Scotland and they've shown that they they've got years of good football to offer this country."

"My biggest disappointment, I must say, is Peter Dickson. I recommended him to Albion Rovers here. There's no doubting Peter's ability but, sad to say, he just hasn't produced the goods."

Macleod joined Green Gully Ajax in 1981 and was leading State League scorer that year. In his native Scotland he played for Albion Rovers, St. Mirren, Hamilton Academicals, Berwick Rangers, Pollok and Peterhead. Hamilton Accies bought him from St.

Mirren in 1974 for \$24,000, well remembering the five goals he scored for Saints against Accies in a Scottish League Cup tie, a record which still stands. At Pollok, Macleod scored 54 goals in his first season, a club record.

Macleod continued his scoring exploits with Ajax last year but his inability to come to terms with the club over the signing of a new contract for this year saw him set to switch to Crodon. Until Footscray U.S.T. stepped in and signed him.

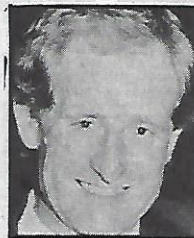
"Arnold Langer, the Ajax treasurer, wouldn't budge when we were talking terms last year. Neither would I. I'm not scared of him the way some players are at Ajax. He told me that if another club offered me more than the terms he offered he's gladly match their offer. Well, I trebled the money he offered me when I joined J.U.S.T. and later Crodon this year and he's still waiting on Arnold Langer to send me a cheque matching their terms."

"Don't get me wrong. There's no ill feeling between Arnold and me. Not now."

Macleod played for J.U.S.T. earlier this season against opponents of the calibre of Sydney City Hawks, Sydney Olympic, Marconi, South Melbourne Hellas and Preston Makedonia, so he's seen at first hand, what's required to make the jump from State League to the NSL.

"There's not a great jump in standard between these competitions, however, the fitness and skill requirements of the NSL are greater. Looking at some of the Victorian State League clubs which have applied to get into the NSL, I'd have to say that they all would need to sign new players for next season."

"Gully needs a back-up for



Gus Macleod

goalkeeper Lou Denys, another defender, preferably someone who was versatile enough to slot into any position in the back four, another midfielder and another forward. I can't say too much about how many new players Crodon would need. I'll get a better idea of their needs after we beat them at Crodon on Sunday."

"Juventus certainly needs new players, even though I think they'll win State League this season. They really impressed me when they thumped us at Crodon last month. And players like Rob Cullen, Kevin Swincoe and Jim Nelson were on the bench that day! Both fullbacks impressed me, Vince Bannon and Harry Hird. I'd never seen them play so aggressively."

Macleod's move from J.U.S.T. to Crodon earlier this year was his own choosing. The J.U.S.T. committee wanted him to stay.

"J.U.S.T. was rebuilding under Bobby McLachlan when I joined. The style of game we

played didn't suit me, even though Bobby didn't have much option. He had to be defensive. I was putting in a lot of hard work out on the field but the fans didn't like me. Everyone knew that me and Bobby were close friends and at the time, he was clearing out a few players who were favorites of some of the fans."

"It would be different if I was playing with J.U.S.T. now. I'd enjoy it a lot more because the team isn't so cautious. I like playing in sides with guys getting wide and getting the crosses in."

Macleod had trained with Crodon before joining J.U.S.T. He had agreed to give Crodon first option on his services should he return to State League and Crodon secretary Laurie Cooper phoned Macleod immediately after hearing of the big striker's availability. A sidelight to Macleod's switch to Crodon was that he scored the winning goal against the club in Ajax's 3-2 win in the 1981 Ampol Cup final. And as soon he scored he ran to the Crodon bench with his fists raised in triumph.

Crodon's coach then, as it was when Macleod joined this year, was Bill McArthur, since replaced by Ted Dilworth. McArthur reacted to Macleod's gesture by throwing a bucket of water over him.

"Bill McArthur was interviewed on radio on the morning of the match and asked his impressions about an up and coming striker called Gus Macleod. Bill said that you couldn't call a 30 year old up and coming. When I scored, I just wanted to remind him of his comments. But we had a

beer together after the final. There were no hard feelings."

Macleod has definite views on McArthur's demise as coach of Crodon a few weeks ago.

"Bill wasn't prepared to take a cut in his wages and he was quite right in principle. I thought that a solution could have been worked out between Bill and the committee but that wasn't to be. The new coach, Ted Dilworth, is a Crodon diehard. Every coach has his own method of working, as has Ted."

"I'll review my situation at the end of the year. I've already had a couple of offers from other clubs to take up a player-coaching position next year. I'll eventually get into coaching I think. When I do, I just hope that I can look my players in the face and tell them the truth. Communication is the biggest thing in coaching. You've got to be honest with your players and you have to take more interest in working out why players lose form from time to time. Not enough coaches take an interest in this and there are often many personal, deep-seated reasons for players not performing to their capabilities."

Macleod says that Crodon definitely will finish the season in fourth spot in State League and will be admitted to the NSL next year. He's got the only Crodon player with NSL experience, Lou Kastner, Mike Rainey and Jimmy Rooney are others.

Right now Macleod is concentrating on playing his part in what he hopes will be a successful Dockerty Cup run for Crodon.

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Ajax too tough, Croatia under threat

The biggest State League crowd of the season — that's what Sunshine-George Cross officials are predicting for Sunday's Maltese derby at Chaplin Reserve against Green Gully Ajax.

The stakes are high for both camps. A win for Ajax would make it odds-on to clinch a third successive championship as closest rival Croatia faces a danger game on the same day against Croydon at Croydon Park.

A win to the combine would add weight to its bid for inclusion in the 1984 NSL.

Aside from individual and team ability, what greatly impresses me about Ajax is its physical strength all over the park. Peter Lewis, Stuart Cannell, Peter Boyle, Willie Vassallo and Jim Williams certainly know how to look after themselves. As a few Juventus players found out last weekend. When contests deteriorate into hard, slogging

affairs there only can be one result if Ajax is involved. Sunshine-George Cross has enhanced the physical qualities of its side by signing Alan Kerr, Gerry Bennett and Jim O'Reilly this season, however I can't see the combine coming out on top on Sunday. I expect Ajax to win.

I couldn't preview this match without mentioning the league's leading scorer — Paul Lewis of Ajax. He's a journalist's nightmare. His exploits this season have made terms such as quicksilver, lightning fast and razor sharp, hackneyed. Lewis is faster than fast, sharper than merely sharp, looks like a top class sprinter exploding out of the starting blocks when he accel-



Victorian State League with CRAIG MACKENZIE

erates and has unshakeable nerve in front of goal. When I first saw Lewis in 1981 I felt that he had a tendency to blast haphazardly after breaking through. Not so now. His finishing against Juventus was classic.

If Lewis decides to stay here, then his talents deserve plaudits from a far larger audience. He must play in the NSL.

Two NSL candidates, Melbourne Croatia and Croydon, meet at Croydon Park on Sunday. I'm tipping a draw I hate

to say this, because he's a mate of mine, but from time to time Croatia goalkeeper Peter Blachy has proved a bit dodgy in the air. I hope for his sake, that Sunday isn't one of those times because there's nothing surer than that Croydon will be slinging over high crosses in search of Gus Macleod and Joe Sweeney.

Fawkner should defeat disappointing Polonia at Smith Reserve on Sunday. When Mike Lynn was deposed as Polonia coach earlier this season, his successor, Leszek

Dziakowski, used three strikers. For a handful of weeks. Soon, like Lynn, he was forced to use four players in midfield, relying on Alex Marshall and Janusz Przybyla to score on breaks. That's clearly the best formation for the players at Dziakowski's disposal, although, just before Lynn's departure, Marshall expressed different ideas, wanting more support up front.

There's no doubt that Polonia desperately is in need of another top class striker. Maybe the Polish-sponsored club will make that one of its priorities for 1984.

Juventus should beat Ringwood Wilhelmina at Olympic Park No. 2 on Sunday even though Pat Bannon will be serving an automatic one-week suspension. Or will he? It all depends, I suppose, on what stage the paper work at Soccer House is up to.

The pick of Saturday's three games is the North Cringian

league clash between Morwell Falcons and Northcote. The Northerners have been crippled by injuries to John Creamy and Gary Cutler but will enjoy the availability of midfielder Colin Quigley, back from suspension. Young Arthur Patinotis should be fully recovered from flu and seems certain to play but Falcons have too many accomplished players to stumble here.

Doveton will have John Dowle back from suspension and Stan Webster back from injury for its visit to Middle Park to tackle Jim Armstrong's young South Melbourne Hellas, seemingly rooted to last spot on the

league ladder. The Doves should win.

SATURDAY
S.M. Hellas v DOVE-TON at Middle Park, 3 pm.
MORWELL FALCONS v Northcote at North Cringian Reserve, 3 pm.

SUNDAY
FAWKNER v Polonia at Smith Reserve, 3 pm.
Croydon v Melbourne Croatia (draw) at Croydon Park, 3 pm.

Sunshine-George Cross v G.G. AJAX at Chaplin Reserve, 3 pm.
JUVENTUS v Ringwood Wilhelmina at Olympic Park NO. 2, 3 pm.

Mihos injured, Bozikis grabs the equaliser

NORTHCOTE 1 (Bozikis 79th) BOX HILL 1 (Priestley 64th) at John Cain Reserve, Sunday.

NORTHCOTE: Giannopoulos 7 Mihos 5 (de Filippos 80th), Moore 8, Bozikis 8, Katsakidis 8, Wilson 6, Wright 7, Culina 6 - Dionysopoulos 6, Tsetos 6 - Constantinou 6. Coach: Tony Vrzina.

BOX HILL: McKinnlay 7 - I. Roodhouse 8, Gabrielson 7, Brownlie 7, A. Roodhouse 7, Valentine 6 (K. Patterson 81st), Hughes 6, McDonald 6 - Azzopardi 6, Verrechia 7, Priestley 7. Coach: Bill Murray.

Northcote and Victorian under-16 defender George Mihos was taken to hospital with a head injury after a collision in the 80th minute against Box Hill.

Mihos and team mate Chris Katsakidis are in the Victorian squad which will contest the national under-16 championship starting this weekend at HMAS Cerberus, Flinders.

Northcote coach Tony Vrzina was forced to play injured Branko Culina in midfield. Vrzina learned only an hour before the kick-off that young midfielder Arthur Patinotis was suffering a viral complaint and was unavailable.

le, so in came 16-year-old Con Dionysopoulos, who had played the first half of the reserves match. Classy midfielder Colin Quigley was serving an automatic one-week suspension after receiving three yellow cards. Quigley's third caution came the previous week against Albion Rovers and Northcote received a telegram last Friday, informing it of Quigley's suspension.

Which brings into question the entire system of suspensions after three yellow cards. Juventus captain and sweeper Pat Bannon received a third yellow card against Croatia two weeks ago yet still was able to play against Ajax last Sunday. In that match Bannon received a fourth yellow card.

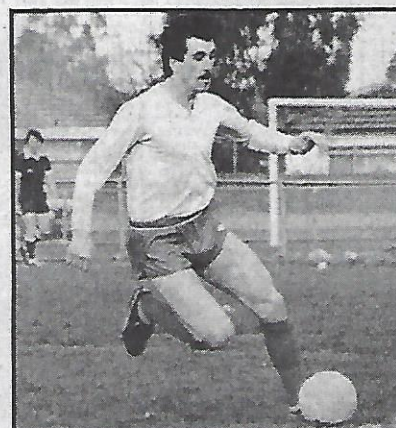
Anyway, let's not try to make sense of it all. That's not possible. Back to the match.

There weren't many chances created. The best in the first half fell to Spiro Tsetos after Don Brownlie miskicked but Box Hill goalie John McKinnlay did well to save bravely at Tsetos' feet.

Earlier, the Hillmen felt that a penalty should have been awarded after striker Paul Priestly was obstructed inside the Northcote area by Stevie Moore. Referee Evan Venios waves play on.

Box Hill hit the front in the 64th minute. Keith Valentine took a corner, playing the ball short to Dave Azzopardi, who crossed the Priestley headed in at the near post. Katsakidis cleared the ball but it already had crossed the line.

George Bozikis pushed forward in the last 20 minutes and was rewarded for his efforts in the 79th minute when he was unmarked at the far post as Culina's free kick came over. Bozikis brought the ball down and knocked it in from four metres for the equaliser.



Northcote midfielder Colin Quigley — back in action against Morwell on Saturday. Picture by LES SHORROCK.



Northcote's classy midfielder Steve Moore, presently filling in as sweeper, leader in our Ametco Travel State League Player of the Year award.

Memo Tim White: Watch Prezioso!

AMETCO PLAYER AWARDS

Ametco Travel is sponsoring our two major State League awards for Player of the Year and Top Scorer in 1983.

Our Player of the Year wins a return trip to Europe, flying Thai International. Our Top Scorer wins a return trip to Singapore, also flying Thai International.

Voting for our Player of the Year award is on the 3-2-1 basis for each State League match. In the event of a tie, the player scoring most three votes will be declared the winner. This week's votes:

- Polonia v Croydon: 3 Rooney (C), 2 Irvine (C), 1 Dobson (C).
Doveton v Fawkner: 3 M. Lennon (D), 2 Fattore (F), 1 Stirling (D).
Wilhelmina v Stewart: 3 O'Callaghan (M), 2 I. Roodhouse (W), 1 Young (M).
Northcote v Box Hill: 3 Bozikis (N), 2 I. Roodhouse (BH), 1 Moore (N).
Croatia v S.G. Cross: 3 Biskic (C), 2 Cumming (C), 1 Taylor (SGC).
Ajax v Juventus: 3 Short (A), 2 Peter Lewis (A), 1 Hogen (A).
S.M. Hellas v Albion: 3 D'Sylva (A), 2 Ferrie (A), 1 Kalifatidis (SMH).

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA 0 MORWELL FALCONS 0 at Jubilee Park, SUNDAY.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA: Lee 7, Pannan 6, Pans 7, Brooks 8, Verriera 7 - Bakker 7 (Kevin Adams 60th), Garney 6, Whyte 6 - Lange 6 (Meyer 84th), Thom 8, Stewart 8. Coach: Rudi van Aalten.

MORWELL FALCONS: Prezioso 7 - Bingham 7, Darcy 7, Young 8, Train 7 - Mitten 7, MacLean 8, O'Callaghan 9 - McGuinness 6, Evans 6, Leckey 6. Coach: Tony Bannan.

Morwell's 17 year old goalkeeper Romeo Prezioso pulled off a great save from Neil Garvey's penalty attempt in the 53rd minute, clearly the most decisive moment of a match in which Morwell created more chances but Wilhelmina's were more clear-cut.

Prezioso redeemed himself with the save for he had dropped a cross from Ken Stewart, then dived across Brian Thom to give the penalty away. Quite rightly, referee Jim Dale pointed to the spot but Prezioso was equal to the task.

Prezioso is continuing to improve after filling in for injured Bill Whiteside. Indeed, Victorian youth team coach Tim White could do far worse than to have a good look at the developing Morwell youngster.

Fawkner goalkeeper Bill Pannan (above, left) took over from Rob Terzini last Sunday. Pannan's team mate Joe Palinkas (above, right) supplied the cross for Bruno Sabidussi's second half equaliser.

Buchanan sent off, o.g. downs Doves

DOVETON 2 (Thurlow 2nd, M. Lennon 32nd) FAWKNER 3 (Tuffield 18th, Bruno Sabidussi 75th, Miller og 81st) at Waratah Reserve, Sunday.

DOVETON: Keogh 7 - Watson 8, Gledhill 6, Cork 7, Macleod 6 - Watson 7, Miller 6, Lennon 8 - Buchanan 6 (sent off 35th), Stirling 8. Coach: Henry McInnes.

FAWKNER: Pannan 6 - Giannopoulos 7, Kondariou 8, Fattore 8, Schipano 6 - Patroceni 7 (Bozikis 65th), B. Sabidussi 7, Accola 6 - Palinkas 8, Tuffield 8, Cazzella 8. Coach: Cedo Cirkovic.

Fawkner coach Cedo Cirkovic was full of praise for Doveton as he watched his team twice come back from behind, running out the victor thanks to an own goal from Doveton's Andy Miller in the 81st minute.

The Doves were forced to play with 10 men for 60 minutes when former Frankston City midfielder Bill Buchanan was sent off after a clash with Bruno Cazzella in the 35th minute. The score at the time was 2-1 to Doveton.

Midfielder Peter Thurlow gave the Waratah Wombles a great start when he headed in following a Buchanan cross in the 2nd minute.

A Cazzella cross and a fine Ian Tuffield header levelled scores in the 18th minute. The Doves regained the lead in the 32nd minute after a Miller shot struck the post. Mark Lennon was on hand to kick away the rebound. The referee either ignored or didn't see the linesman's flag during the move which led to Lennon's goal.

A similar incident took place during the move leading to Fawkner's decisive third goal, but let's get back to the equaliser.

GREEN GULLY AJAX 3 (Paul Lewis 13th, 67th, Peter Lewis 79th) JUVENTUS 1 (Zinni 88th), at Green Gully Reserve, Sunday.

AJAX: Denry 7 - Peter Lewis 8, Short 8, Connell 8, Hogen 8, Boyle 7, Vassallo 7, Smallman 6 (McCalland 67th), Williams 7 - Toal 7, Paul Lewis 7. Coach: David Smallman.

JUVENTUS: Clayton 7 - V. Bannan 6, P. Bannan 6, Rogers 7, Hinton 7 (Swine 7), Lloyd 7, Incanalupo 6; Zinni 7, French 7. Coach: John Margaritis.

Three years ago Ajax won its first premiership and Juventus officially was relegated. The fact that these two teams met on Sunday in a match that was going to have a decisive bearing on this year's premiership is a great credit to Juventus, but in three years the home team has become a finely tuned machine that goes through its motions with mechanical precision, makes no mistakes and does not forgive those made by the other side.

Juventus, to stay in the championship race, had to win and win well, so it threw caution to the wind and took the field with an attacking formation with Rogers in place of stopper Drinocky and acting as an additional midfielder.

This left little at the back and the state's most deadly striker, Paul Lewis, was given unlimited space and freedom. It came in the 75th minute from the head of Bruno Sabidussi after a fine Joe Palinkas' cross.

Doveton players complained that the in Fawkner player to touch the ball before it went into goal to make it 3-2, handed. Again the linesman's flag went up. Again, it went unheeded, and the ensuing shot deflected off Miller and past Sean Keogh.

Lewis on the left with the defence caught out of balance. The star striker had little difficulty in racing in to face Clayton. His first shot was parried by the keeper, the second found the open goal.

Juventus went back on the offensive and Incanalupo was heading for goal in the 28th minute, but Short made sure by bringing him down just outside the penalty box. The rest of the first half slowed down considerably with Gully's defenders square passing the ball to each other at every opportunity.

At half time, Margaritis replaced Ged Bannan with Kevin Swinecoe obviously to use a fresh man and go on the attack. For the first 15 minutes of this half Juventus pulled out all stops and put the opposing goal under siege. In the 49th minute Lou Denys made a desperate attempt on his left but the parried shot was rounded by Lloyd who crossed for Zinni at the far post but the youngster headed over the bar of the open goal from close range and in perfect position. Zinni again missed a good chance in the 56th minute when his shot from inside the box went completely astray. In the 61st minute, Denys saved a long range shot by Rogers.

Gully's defence worked overtime but managed to survive with decisive tackling and neat clearances. In the 68th minute an unfit Smallman finally ruled himself out for McCalland and a minute later Paul Lewis was again left with unlimited space and had no trouble at all in pushing a Boyle pass past hapless Clayton.

The second goal seemed to momentarily slow down Juventus and Ajax again took control of hostilities, saving a corner in the 79th minute. The Juventus defence had difficulty in clearing and Peter Lewis slammed in from close range. At 3-0 the Gully machine took another breather and Juventus was able to pre-sure again.

In the 88th minute Rob Cullen raced down the left and passed to Zinni who scored with an angled shot between the post and the goalkeeper. On the other side of the field the linesman waved his flag, but after consulting him, referee Mellings allowed the goal.

Two minutes later Juventus should have scored again when Incanalupo hit the left post and French missed an open goal from the rebound.

Gully deserved the win for its brilliant defence, its wide style of playing that created space up front and for keeping its cool under pressure.

Juventus was not disgraced with a bit of luck could have done better but it gave too many chances at the back, was unsettled by Gully's strong tactics and psychological warfare and lacked composure in front of goal.

The good crowd (over 2,000) enjoyed every minute of it and proved that, given the right opposition, Green Gully can be at least a moderate crowd puller.

— ROCKY DI ZIO

It was Wade

Croydon is crediting midfielder Paul Wade, not striker Peter Loughnane, with its goal in its 1-1 draw with Doveton two weeks ago.

CONT. FROM PAGE 13

THURSDAY
1st Game Ground No 1 — 3rd GROUP 'A' v 4th GROUP 'B' at 9.30 am.
2nd Game Ground No 2 — 3rd GROUP 'B' v 4th GROUP 'A' at 11 am.
3rd Game Ground No 1 — 1st GROUP 'A' v 2nd GROUP 'B' at 2.15 pm.
4th Game Ground No 2 — 1st GROUP 'B' v 2nd GROUP 'A' at 4 pm.

FRIDAY
1st Game Ground No 1 — 5th and 6th placing at 9.30 am.
2nd Game Ground No 2 — 7th and 8th placing at 9.30 am.
3rd Game Ground No 2 — 3rd and 4th placing at 11 am.
Final: Ground No. 1 at 3 pm.

Victorian round-up

Antolovic wins it

MELBOURNE CROATIA 1
(Antolovic 65th) **SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS 0** at Olympic Park No. 1 Sunday.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Blasby 8 - Curcio 7, Patton 7, Adams 7, Hennessey 7 (inf), Danovick 65th - Blumie 6, Antolovic 7, Faulkner 7, Gajovic 7 - Cumming 8, Brogan 7. Coach: John Gardner.

SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS: Courtell 6 - Richardson 6, O'Reilly 7, Scarr 6, Taylor 8 - Stevenson 7, Bennett 7, McCann 6, Pate 6 - Glider 6, Bain 6. Coach: Tommy Traynor.

Peter Blasby's penalty save in the 4th minute denied Sunshine-George Cross of a shock start and Jozo Antolovic settled the issue with a headed goal in the 65th minute.

Sunshine-George Cross had the better of the early exchanges. Referee Jim Fokianos awarded a controversial penalty against Blasby not long after most fans had settled into their seats. Fokianos ruled that Blasby had infringed against

former team mate Carl Gilder, the Sunshine-George Cross striker, but Blasby had the last laugh, doing well to save Norrie Pate's penalty attempt.

Sunshine-George Cross goalkeeper Alan Contini had to leave the field for treatment in the 10th minute. Norrie Pate took over in goal until Contini's re-appearance about five minutes later.

Croatia first looked dangerous in the 18th minute. Josp Biskic, its best player, got free on the right and crossed. Sean Patton met the ball well only to head against the bar.

Four minutes later the combine was denied from taking the lead when captain Gerry Bennett ran onto a square pass from Gilder and let fly from 25 metres, sending the ball crashing against the post.

The all-important second half goal came after Biskic won the ball and passed to Antolovic. The latter Croatia midfielder played the ball to Dave Brogan wide on the left and charged toward goal. Antolovic got onto the end of Brogan's

return and headed past Contini to make it 1-0.

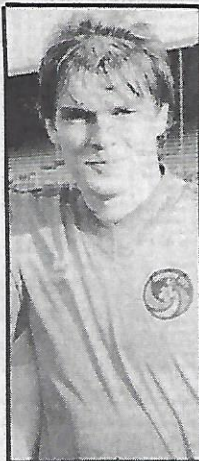
As if losing by the odd goal wasn't disappointing enough, Sunshine-George Cross players returned to their dressing room at the game's end to find that so many valuables had been stolen. The referees received the same treatment.

One wonders about the lack of security at a venue which many believe to be the best soccer stadium in Australia. Time and again we see Olympic Park officials scurrying into the dressing rooms in search of a stretcher after a player has been seriously injured. That's shameful enough. These same officials still haven't learnt to have a stretcher by the side of one of the dug-outs.

Now players also have to worry about whether or not their valuables will be stolen while they are competing out on the field. It's about time that those in charge spent less time telling children to keep away from the pitch and looked after the people who make the turnstiles tick - the players.

Croydon wins top four battle

POLONIA 1 (Marshall 77th)
CROYDON 2 (Sweeney 56th, P. Loughane 60th) at Raleigh Reserve, Sunday.



Croydon striker Joe Sweeney - denied from scoring by Leszek Dzielakowski in the first half but opened his club's account against Polonia in the second half.

POLONIA: Dzielakowski 6 - Lipinski 6, Muszyk 6, Mita 6, Smolarski 6 - Petrov 6, A. Czapnik 6, P. Czapnik 6, Tront 6 (Krynski 55th) - Marshall 6, Lalic 6. Coach: Leszek Dzielakowski.

CROYDON: Kastner 7 - Rainey 6, Marley 7, Dobson 7, Hobson 7 - Irvine 6, Rooney 6, Wade 6 - P. Loughane 6 (Brown 70th), Sweeney 6, Macleod 6. Coach: Ted Dilworth.

Croydon clearly was the better side here and established the credibility of its top four claim. It also probably ended any real hope Polonia had of taking part in this year's State League Cup.

Croydon was leading 2-0 when Brendan Lalic hampered his penalty try way over the bar and Polonia's goal came from a bad back pass by Mike Rainey. Tadik Krynski latched onto the ball and squared to Alex Marshall who made it 2-1.

Big Marshall missed a sitter just before half time when he miskicked from right in front but Croydon had created three good chances earlier but failed to convert. A few minutes before Marshall's glaring miss, Joe Sweeney had a free header at the back post which brought out a great save from Polonia player-coach Leszek Dzielakowski. The former

Polish First Division keeper collided early with Gus Macleod and complained of sore ribs throughout the game.

Croydon took the lead in the 56th minute after Dzielakowski misjudged a corner and Sweeney shot truly at the far post.

Four minutes later it was 2-0. Dzielakowski got a hand to a tremendous Peter Lough-

nane drive but was helpless to stop the ball flashing into goal. Steve Marley failed to clear in the 75th minute and was ruled to have felled Marshall when trying to clear a second time. Lalic smashed the ball away from the spot.

Although Marshall reduced the arrears a couple of minutes later, Polonia was a beaten side.

Jim Rooney had a great game in midfield for Croydon.

Chipano HOME FURNISHERS

BUFFALO STATE LEAGUE LADDER										
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts				
G.G. AJAX.....	16	4	1	52	10	36				
CROATIA.....	16	2	3	55	11	32				
JUVENTUS.....	14	4	3	41	17	34				
CROYDON.....	10	5	6	38	27	25				
Polonia.....	9	5	7	31	27	23				
Box Hill.....	9	4	8	31	31	22				
Fawkner.....	9	4	8	33	35	22				
Northcote.....	9	3	9	21	37	21				
Sun G. Cross.....	8	3	10	34	32	19				
Morwell.....	8	3	10	25	37	19				
Doveton.....	6	3	12	27	39	15				
Albion.....	3	4	14	12	38	10				
Wilhelmina.....	4	2	15	19	51	10				
S.M. Hellas.....	1	4	16	21	57	6				



Albion defender Frank Macleod (centre) was sent off after this challenge against Hellas goalkeeper Mark Turudia on Saturday. At right is Hellas defender Angie Postecoglou. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

Macleod sent off, again!

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Kakantonis 58th)
ALBION ROVERS 2 (D'Sylva 28th, Farrie 68th) at Middle Park, Saturday.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Turudia 6, Katsidis 6, Kallitidis 7, Vardakis 5, Postecoglou 5, Bekiaris 6, Katsoulidis 6, Abraham 6 (Anastasiadis 55th), Katsoulidis 5, Cumming 6. Coach: Jim Armstrong.

ALBION ROVERS: Costello 6, Cayle 6, Stewart 6, Macleod (sent off 70th), Hennessey 6, Gray (inf. 30th), Galea 6, Ferrie 7, A. Bennett 6, D'Sylva 7, McIntyre (sent off 65th), Rilly 7. Coach: Hugh Murray.

I wasn't looking forward very much to watching Hellas and Albion battling it out for the wooden spoon, even though middle Park is my favourite ground. In the event, it was even worse than I had anticipated.

Albion started off brightly enough, obviously relishing the Middle Park surface, which is like a bowling green compared

with Selwyn Park, and it was no surprise when Mick D'Sylva put Rovers in front, via a defender's leg.

But tragedy struck in the 36th minute when Eddie Gray collided with fellow defender Frank Macleod and was carried off with a badly dislocated knee-cap that necessitated surgery next day.

The injury rattled Albion Rovers as they lost their rhythm and initiative.

The game went downhill after that, aided by some baffling decisions by referee Lou Hemmes, who seemed to have decided to penalise every third foul, and there was a constant barrage of complaints from the players directed at the referee.

Things came to a head in the 57th minute when Billy McIntyre loudly disputed a linesman's decision and was sent off.

Albion was still recovering from this shock when South equalised. Pepe Abraam, South's brightest forward shot, and the ball was parried. Steve

Kakantonis was on hand to tuck away the rebound.

Worse was to follow for Albion though, as it threw caution to the winds and attacked all out. Frank Macleod was sent off for the third time this season after a tackle on goalkeeper Mark Turudia, and Albion was left with nine men.

But South players lost their heads and were unable to capitalise, hit sometimes as many as four players being caught offside and it was Albion that dominated.

Brian Galea, who had come on for the unfortunate Gray, became the hero of the hour when he put Bennie Ferrie clear to bang the ball exultantly into the net for the winner with only two minutes left to play.

It was a classic case of how weak refereeing can ruin a game and considering the nasty note on which the match finished, South's committee can consider itself lucky there were no incidents, because there were no police present.

A beaming Joe Docherty said after the game: "The Albion committee is so delighted with the result that they will be applying for a place in the 1984 National League."

— LES SHORROCK

Pines' path to glory?

Three league games stand in the way of Frankston Pines and the First Division championship.

The progressive Pines have drawn their past four matches. Significantly, the team has conceded just one goal in this time, an example of the defensive discipline of the side under coach Danny McMinimee.

McMinimee's problems centre upon his lack of striking ability. He selected new German signing Kurt Bohl against Western Suburbs last weekend and although the match ended in a 0-0 draw, Bohl did enough to suggest that as his match fitness improves, so will his contribution to Pines' cause.

defence nowhere. Although Heidelberg pressed hard, the Eltham defence held out and eventually the visitors played their way back into the game and played out the last few minutes comfortably.

PROVISIONAL DIVISION ONE
MONASH UNIVERSITY
1 (Mullat 31st) BULLEN-VENETO 3 (Michelloudakis 30th, 75th, Gennai 69th)

MONASH UNI: G. Timmo, R. Mason, A. Barzse, P. Mills, T. Smithwhite, N. Sinclair, M. Macpherson, M. King, N. Quamp, C. Muller, S. Vander Walder.

BULLEN-VENETO: L. Zepher, E. Borin, B. Borin, G. S. Zepher, G. P. Cassal, G. Curvill, G. F. Barbieri, G. J. Augerinos, J. Michelloudakis, V. Salvatore 6 (S. Baccan 76th), M. Gennai 6 (W. Finardi 82nd).

METROPOLITAN DIVISION THREE
HEIDELBERG BUNDOORA 1 (Hodgson 51st)
ELTHAM 2 (Hadjic 22nd, Herman 36th)

ELTHAM: Graham 8, Alderson 7, Raynes 6, M. Cirka 7, McIntosh 7, Hadzic 7, Herman 6, Craig 7, Vardalis 6, Bridge 7, P. Cirka 7.

H'BERG/DOORA: Ralph, Sturt, Talbot, Gw. Davidson, O'Hanlon, Hodgson, Georgiadis, Harrop, McQuicken, Cove.

Two first half goals were enough for the Redbacks to take both points in the local derby at Heidelberg. After a slow start, Eltham gained control and went ahead in the 22nd minute when Peter Cirka picked up a long clearance from Hugh Graham and played the ball across goal. The ball appeared to have beaten everyone but Fred Vanderslik produced an amazing burst of speed, caught the ball and pulled it back across goal where Alan Hadzic had the easiest of tasks to push the ball home.

Eltham pressed on and Joe Herman got the second with a rocket from 25 metres.

With the wind at their backs the home side attacked from the start of second half and Hodgson reduced the deficit after six minutes when he headed a cross from the left into the net with the Eltham

SELECTIONS

METROPOLITAN DIVISION ONE
KNOX CITY v MELBOURNE; BRIMMINGHAM v RICHMOND; BELL PARK v WERRIBEE at Werribee; DONCASTER ROVERS v Kew Park Rangers.
Sunday: Albion Gate v FRANKSTON PINES, Melbourne v Western Suburbs (draw).

DIVISION THREE
Saturday: Footscray v Kallitidis (draw); ADEER v Preston; Heidelberg City v PRESTON; Ringwood Utd v Springvale City (draw); Heidelberg Utd v Nth Dandenong (draw); THOMASTOWN v Nth Dandenong City; Waverley City v ST ALBANS.

DIVISION FOUR Saturday: YALLURN v Heidelberg Dandenong; ELTHAM v Preston City; Brighton v MORWELL; STH OAKLEIGH v Port Melbourne; Colony v Sandringham (draw); CAULFIELD CITY v Royal Richmond; Sandringham v STH MELB; MORWELL v Sandringham. || **DIVISION FOUR** | Saturday: HAWTHORN v Kaysborough; KARNAL v Halmby Rangers; Geelong/Brown v Carlton (draw); Essendon City v Moorabbin City (draw); NTH GEELONG v Fawkner; Geelong v Moorabbin; ROSEBUD v Roanah. |
| **PROVISIONAL DIVISION ONE** | Saturday: CLIFTON HILL v Maitland; Clayton v LAKE UTD; Chelsea v EAST BUNBURNICK; CLIFTON v Maitland; BULLEN v Shepparton City; BALLARAT v Langwarrup; YARRAVILLE v Hawthorn. |
| **DIVISION TWO** | Saturday: DORRIN v Camberoon; NUNAWADING Utd v Kew; Berrak City v West Brunswick (draw); ASBUTSFORD v Moorabbin-Carlisle. |

With the absence of star striker Barroto (suspended) and midfielder Sutherland (inj) a depleted Bullen - Veneto fought off a fighting Monash University to win 3-1.

Bullen-Veneto opened the scoring in the 30th min when Barbieri put through Michelloudakis who, from inside the penalty area, crisply chipped the ball into the net.

Monash University quickly replied when Muller firmly squared the ball into the net from a low cross.

The second half saw both sides fighting hard for the winner and it came in the 68th minute when Gennai latched onto a bad back pass to slide the ball into the net.

Michelloudakis made it 3-1 from inside the area when he rained his shot high into the net.

CLIFTON HILL 1 (Kirikidits 78th) YARRAVILLE 2 (Patridis 41st, Liakopoulos 64th).

YARRAVILLE: Glastas, Trabazis, Tsakolakis, F. Dimitriou, Koutrouzidis, Vougiaraki, Kallitidis, J. Dimitriou, Petridis (Kathopoulos 82nd), Liakopoulos, Meletis.

Yarraville, coached by Manos Milios, remains the only team in the Metropolitan and Provisional Leagues not to have lost a match this season.

DIVISION TWO
REGENT 1 (Iliopoulos 44th)
SOUTH HADENONG 3 (Saidoghis 1st, Saidoghis o.g. 19th, Romero 27th)

REGENT: F. Teverna, T. Ogne-novski, B. Stiblj, F. Cincup, J. Bellis, S. Verde, N. Cipriani, A. Peretta, E. Glavdis, G. Iliopoulos (S. Agnoli, 83rd) L. Sciole.

SOUTH HADENONG: C. Bravo, F. Romero, E. Ramos (K. De Klark, 87th), F. Llerena, F. Jimenez, A. Almaraz, J. Presto, G. Warszawski, O. Romero, R. Contreras, M. Saladinas (E. Anselmi, 70th).

BEST PLAYERS: three from each team: REGENT: B. Stiblj, L. Sciole, A. Peretta. SOUTH HADENONG: J. Presto, G. Warszawski, R. Contreras.

The visitors went ahead inside the first minute. Against the odds, Warszawski won the ball in midfield before

putting Presta away on the right wing. A first time cross from the diminutive 16 year old found a crowded goal-mouth. The ball ran loose to another 16 year old, Marion Saladrakis, who netted via the base of the far post.

Nineteen minutes later Presta, through on his own, tried to round the keeper. Right back Ogne-novski, rushed in to clear, but put the ball into his own net.

For once, everything went right for this young South team. Another quick break and Omar Romero made it three for the Hadenong side. A minute from the interval a neat chip from Stiblj found the head of Iliopoulos. His dipping header completely deceived Bravo. Warszawski's forceful midfield play, ably abetted by the close ball skills of Contreras and Presta had Regent chasing shadows at times. It was a fine win by the youngsters from Hadenong.

Hat-trick heroes

ATTENTION: CLUBS APPLYING FOR HAT-TRICK CERTIFICATES MUST FORWARD A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE AT LEAST 31cm x 21cm. WE REGRET THAT THE CERTIFICATES OTHERWISE CANNOT BE SENT OUT.

"Soccer Action" offers a free hat-trick diploma to any junior who scores three goals in a league, Cup, representative or school match.

However, certificates can be sent out only if clubs forward a stamped, self-addressed envelope at least 31cm x 21cm.

Clubs are asked to put together a list of all their boys who score hat-tricks, so the certificates can be sent in the one envelope to save time.

We need the following information:

1. Name of the boy, and his age.
2. The team for which he plays.
3. The team against which he scored the goals.
4. The date of the game.

"Hat-trick heroes" will have their names published in "Soccer Action" every week.

Applications should be sent to:

This week's hat-trick heroes:

Adrian Botrong, Joshua Love

(Monbulk). Scott Peck, 10. Scott Doorakakis, 11 (Barwon City: S. Koutakos (Fawkner), Darren Bailey, Ronnie Rater, Michael Johnson, four goals, M. Yeats, six goals (Cranbourne), Eamonn O'Connell (Doveton), John Pesutto, 13. Anthony Pesutto, 9 (Traralgon Olympians); Patrick Kuipers (Lidford Road State School); Sean Hamm, seven goals, Paul Michimay, six goals, Troy Henderson, Stuart Norris (Belconnen); Sean Hetel, four goals, David Cibura, five goals, Anthony Smith, Ian Sumner, four goals, Ed Kelly, four goals, Troy Spivey, four goals, Matthew Duffy, Gavin Arblow, four goals, Matthew Ryan (Skye), Aaron Healey, Scott Bell (Berwick City); Frank Sabasi, Stuart Burnham, four goals, Matthew Shortt, five goals, Troy McEwen, Michael Nichols, Amedeo Rosa, Benito Cacciotti (Springvale City); Craig Collins, 12, four goals, Wayne Widdowson, 11, (George Town Primary); Meta Kovan, Josef Boras (Hamlyn Rangers); M. D'Amico, four goals, Ricky Dal Ben, four goals (Verment); Steven Anastasopoulos, 10, six goals (Caulfield City) Tal Tran, four goals, five goals (Springvale United); Alex Taylor, 13 goals, Jason Dowle, four goals, George Pierrakos, Peter Alderton, four goals, Cameron Tidd, four goals, Stuart Rush, four goals, Richard Read, John Harris, Jim Patton, eight goals, Nallen Naldo, five goals, Eric Van Middlekoop, George Koray, six goals, Matthew Cook (Blackburn Baptists).

Schools finals

Ardeer, Murrumbidgee and Doncaster East have emerged as the strongest of Victoria's high schools. Each of them has two teams in the all-high semi-finals at Elwood Park on Tuesday, September 13.

The high schools soccer competition is divided into junior, intermediate and senior sections.

The semi-final programme is:

Junior, 9.30 am: Westall v Thomastown and Warrimua v Ardeer.

Intermediate, 11 am: Murrumbidgee v Prahran and Doncaster East v Ardeer.

Senior, 12.30 pm: Murrumbidgee v Richmond and Doncaster East v St. Albans.

The grand finals will be played two days later, September 15, at Elwood Park, at the same time.

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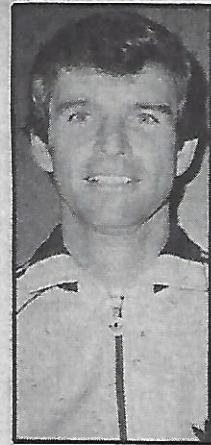
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Lerond



Spina



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Marco



Fisher



Etherington



Monsalve



Pierce



Carmona



Kalantzis



Venori



Lianca

Match schedule

National under 16 titles at HMAS Cerberus (Vic), from Monday:

GROUP "A"
New South Wales: Western Australia; Victoria; Australian Capital Territory.

GROUP "B"
Queensland; South Australia; Northern New South Wales; Tasmania.

MONDAY
1st Game Ground No 1 — NEW SOUTH WALES v WESTERN AUSTRALIA at 9.30 am.
2nd Game Ground No 2 — QUEENSLAND v SOUTH AUSTRALIA at 11 am.

3rd Game Ground No 1 — VICTORIA v AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY at 2.30 pm.
4th Game Ground No 2 — NEW SOUTH WALES v TASMANIA at 4 pm.

TUESDAY
1st Game Ground No 1 —

NEW SOUTH WALES v VICTORIA at 9.30 am.
2nd Game Ground No 2 — QUEENSLAND v NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES at 11 am.

3rd Game Ground No 1 — WESTERN AUSTRALIA v AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY at 2.30 pm.

4th Game Ground No 2 — SOUTH AUSTRALIA v TASMANIA at 4 pm.

WEDNESDAY
1st Game Ground No 1 — WESTERN AUSTRALIA v VICTORIA at 9.30 am.

2nd Game Ground No 2 — SOUTH AUSTRALIA v NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES at 11 am.

3rd Game Ground No 1 — NEW SOUTH WALES v AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY at 2.30 pm.
4th Game Ground No 2 — QUEENSLAND v TASMANIA at 4 pm.

● CONT. ON PAGE 10

In planning Australia's participation in the World Youth Cup in 1985, national coach Les Scheinflug started player-spotting at the youth championships in Canberra in May. He will continue the player search at the under-16 titles at H.M.A.S. Cerberus in Victoria next week.

Also at the titles will be the head coach of soccer at the Australian Institute of Sport Jim Shouler.

He is assessing talent for a new intake into the institute for 1984. Those of course are added incentives for the players while they go about their task of deciding which is the champion state.

As last years' under 16 and under 15 champions, New South Wales will be both anxious and favorite to clinch the title. Western Australia will have a big say in the outcome and South Australia will

be a bit of an unknown quantity.

The Victorians are: **VICTOR CRISTALDO**, Kellor-Austria, superb skills, great vision, good at attacking from deep. Needs work on his right foot.

UGOR JUKIC, Croatia, an uncompromising defensive player, has improved every year as a junior. Eager to learn and discuss his problems. As vice-captain, good leader — tough.

CHRIS SIOMOS, Box Hill, a good multi-purpose player. He tends still to be one-paced but covers that by reading the game well.

ROSS CARROZZA, Juventus, good goalkeeper who has developed his control of the box and has a positive air around his goal.

ERNIE TAPAI, Melbourne, has the potential to develop into a top player. He needs more strength. His techniques are sound, his vision good and his attitude excellent.

PARIS TZAMBAZIS, Western Suburbs, has developed into a top defensive player. He is tough, skilful and has a coolness about him that could be called arrogance.

GEORGE MIHOS, Northeote, has all the skills and executes basic techniques well, but needs to understand the game better, when and where to attack.

ROBERT MARKOVAC, Croatia, a strong boy who has great control for a big lad, needs a big heart to go with his body, but responds when challenged.

MIKE McLENNAN, Nunawading City, a soccer player's player. Has enormous work rate and appetite for the game — keen to learn, and does all his techniques on the field coolly and calmly.

CON KAKOS, Midfield, South Oakleigh. One of the most exciting prospects in the game. Very skilful with a shot with both feet.

JIM PASAKOS, Hellas, has the skills and, combined with pace, has the attributes of a good player — except he lacks the final fighting spirit. Perhaps another coach can instill it!

STUART LEE, goalkeeper, Wilhelmina. On the verge of his first team selection at his club this season. Has an excellent attitude.

CON LAGOS, striker, Kellor-Austria, a fast player with a good shot in either foot. Has progressed to first team this season.

THEO MITSOU, striker, Mordialloc/Torquay, a very difficult opponent in the penalty box, played for Victoria in last year's u/16 titles, possesses a shot in either foot.

- 1983 NSW Under 16 Team**
1. Nick Conradi, goalkeeper, club: Manly Warringah, school: Killarney Heights High
 2. Robert Hooker, defender, club: Sydney city, school: Asquith High
 3. Tony Rapo, midfielder, club: Cronin Sydney
 4. Duncan Worthington, defender, club: Kuringal Assoc; school: St Ives High
 5. Greg Lerond, midfielder, club: Sutherland Shire
 6. Carlo Spina, defender, club: APIA
 7. Steve Stresshofer, striker, club: Canterbury Assoc.
 8. Rafael Marco, sweeper, club: Marconi; school: Maradan High
 9. Greg Fisher, striker, club: Kuringal Assoc; school: Turramurra High
 10. Ross Etherington, midfielder, club: Manly Warringah Assoc; school: Davidson High
 11. Rick Monsalve, midfielder, club: Marconi; school: Fairfield High
 12. Wayne Pierce, defender, club: Manly Warringah Assoc; school: Brookvale Tech
 13. Alfredo Carmona, midfielder, club: Canterbury Assoc; school: Ashfield High
 14. Chris Kalantzis, forward, club: Sydney Olympic; school: Belmore High
 15. John Venori, striker, club: Marconi; school: Fairfield High
 16. Joe Lianca, goalkeeper, club: APIA, school: Ashfield High

Officials
Coach: Allen Edmonson, Sutherland Shire
Manager: Jim Giffin, Bankstown
Massour: Andy Watson, Sutherland Shire

not in the penalty box, played for Victoria in last year's u/16 titles, possesses a shot in either foot.
STEVE TASSIOS, m.d.-field/striker, Hellas, skilful player

who will go on to greater things. A tremendous attitude and a pleasure to work with.
Trainer: Bill Beveridge
Manager: Stan Slazky



Mitsou



Tapai



Tzambazis



Mihos



Carrozza



Christaldo



Markovac



McLennan



Tassios

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Cede la Juventus, riemerge il Fawkner

E così la Juventus è ormai tagliata fuori dalla lotta per il campionato statale dopo la magnifica impennata della settimana scorsa contro il Croatia.

La squadra che aveva battuto tre volte le sue dirette avversarie per la prima poltrona (due volte Croatia e una volta Green Gully) ha dovuto ammainare bandiera domenica scorsa sul campo dell'Ajax sia per la sfida del giorno che per il primato assoluto: un caso della battaglia decisiva che ha fatto perdere anche la guerra.

A dire il vero l'unico punto di 3-1 (che era 3-0 prima che Zinni segnasse la rete della vittoria) è alquanto severo per una squadra che ha nuovamente combattuto con estrema generosità, e che ha fatto di tutto per ottenere il risultato positivo, ma con quanto disordine! Ovviamente Margaritis non è ancora riuscito a trovare la formula per far giocare quattro attaccanti senza indebolire il centrocampo o la difesa. Due domeniche fa aveva ridotto ai minimi termini il centrocampo fino a che gli venne la trovata geniale di tirar fuori il centrocampista Drinocky per rimpiazzarlo

con il centrocampista Lloyd. Allora la mossa funzionò perché prima che l'avversario si riprendesse dalla sorpresa la partita era bella che finita con la strabiliante rimonta della Juventus... e poi si giocava contro il Croatia che in meno di un'ora aveva un uomo in meno in attacco e la cui difesa non sembra reggere alle sfurte avversarie.

Margaritis ha ripetuto la tattica contro il Green Gully, che è tutto un'altra cosa, e per di più dall'inizio della partita correndo un rischio enorme. Naturalmente la necessità di dover vincere a tutti i costi per aver una pur modesta possibilità di accaparrarsi il titolo statale ha costretto Margaritis a tentare il tutto per tutto. Ma più che questa considerazione pensiamo che il tecnico juventino non abbia ancora trovato il coraggio di seguire il più elementare buon senso e metter fuori squadra uno dei quattro attaccanti (French, Cullen, Zinni o Incantalupo) per riportare bilancio in

VIVA ITALIA!

with ROCKY DI ZIO



aquadra. La scelta non è facile poiché French sta giocando con grande generosità ed è l'unico atletico mente capace di mettere pressione sui difensori avversari. Cullen è un ottimo giocatore che costa una tombola e deve essere impiegato. Zinni ed Incantalupo sono anch'essi elementi di grande valore per i quali i tifosi italiani farebbero la fine del mondo se messi fuori squadra. Così il povero Margaritis continua ad illudersi che uno o due dei quattro terzini laterali, costretti a giocare largo dalla schiacciata del Green Gully hanno fatto altrettanto brutta figura quando cercavano di lampognare i buchi al centro. Il risultato è stato che il capocannoniere della lega, e non uno sconosciuto qualsiasi, è stato lasciato completamente solo e con tanto spazio da vendere. Anche dopo laprima rete segnata dallo smarcato Paul Lewis lo schieramento offensivo bianconero non è cambiato affatto con la squadra protesa disperatamente in avanti con quattro attaccanti e tre centrocampisti ed i tre sparuti difensori sono stati nuovamente infilati verso la meta del secondo tempo dopo un forcing della Juventus che avrebbe dovuto ottenere il pareggio se Zinni non avesse incredibilmente mancato con un tiro di testa da distanza ravvicinata e a porta vuota e con un tiro a volo sbucciato dall'interno dell'area pochi minuti dopo. Far colpa ai ragazzi di

quando si è sotto pressione e non si ha tempo di studiare lo schieramento del momento. Drinocky è essenziale.

Questo dover negare l'esistenza del sole ha costretto Zinni a lasciar fuori Drinocky, che non solo ha sempre fatto egregiamente il suo lavoro ma ha fatto anche far sempre bella figura all'anziano Pat Bannon. Senza il giovane gigante di fronte a lui a comprimere od ostacolare ogni offensiva avversaria Pat Bannon è tornato a far la magra figura del passato con la sua lentezza e l'inclinazione a fare pappere sotto pressione. I due terzini laterali, costretti a giocare largo dalla schiacciata del Green Gully hanno fatto altrettanto brutta figura quando cercavano di lampognare i buchi al centro. Il risultato è stato che il capocannoniere della lega, e non uno sconosciuto qualsiasi, è stato lasciato completamente solo e con tanto spazio da vendere. Anche dopo laprima rete segnata dallo smarcato Paul Lewis lo schieramento offensivo bianconero non è cambiato affatto con la squadra protesa disperatamente in avanti con quattro attaccanti e tre centrocampisti ed i tre sparuti difensori sono stati nuovamente infilati verso la meta del secondo tempo dopo un forcing della Juventus che avrebbe dovuto ottenere il pareggio se Zinni non avesse incredibilmente mancato con un tiro di testa da distanza ravvicinata e a porta vuota e con un tiro a volo sbucciato dall'interno dell'area pochi minuti dopo. Far colpa ai ragazzi di

aver mancato le reti sarebbe ingiusto perché egli gioca con il cuore in gola tutta la partita e non ha perciò mai quel pizzico di calma necessaria per tentare la soluzione a rete; contro la difesa del Green Gully che non fa complimenti e che l'ultima volta lo aveva messo fuori causa per diverse settimane, era ovvio per di più che egli avesse una terribile fretta di concludere prima che qualche energumeno gli saltasse addosso e gli facesse concludere la partita o addirittura la carriera.

Condotta generosa, impostazione sbagliata

Sul due a zero, e in circostanze che avevano della beffa, era ovvio che la Juventus accusasse un momento di calo ed il Green Gully ne approfittava per ripartire all'offensiva e guadagnarsi il calcio d'angolo che fruttava la terza rete. Ma era nuovamente la Juventus a buttarsi all'arrembaggio verso il fine partita per segnare la rete della bandiera con Zinni al 43 e quindi mancare un'altra rete per sfortuna e precipitazione. Incantalupo colpiva l'incrocio dei pali e French mancava clamorosamente calciando il rimballo alle stelle di fronte alla porta vuota.

Con la rete segnata e le due reti sventurate mancava, senza parlare di altre occasioni buone, la Juventus avrebbe anche potuto pareggiare.

re: con la sua generosa condotta di gara e con la superiorità territoriale che ha esercitato avrebbe addirittura meritato di vincere; ma la sua sbilanciata impostazione tecnica l'ha condannata alla sconfitta e all'addio al campionato. Con il senno di poi è facile dire che con Drinocky al centro della difesa arroccata come in tante partite ed in modo speciale quella d'andata contro il Croatia, il risultato di domenica sarebbe stato diverso. Sono solo supposizioni che rimarranno senza una risposta almeno per ora, perché le due squadre dovranno riallacciarsi nuovamente nella competizione "top four" di fine campionato ed un ritorno ad uno schieramento più ortodosso darebbe alla Juventus la possibilità di una rivincita.

Con l'interesse in campionato ormai molto ridotto, la nostra attenzione si sposta in campo amministrativo dove ormai tutto sembra pronto per gli inizi dei lavori sul terreno di Brunswick. A questo proposito ricordiamo che tutti, soci, tifosi e simpatizzanti, sono invitati alla riunione pubblica di martedì prossimo al "Crystal T" night club (di fronte al mercato di Brunswick) che inizierà alle 7.30 di sera e darà al comitato la possibilità di fare un rapporto generale sulla situazione del club e un dettagliato sullo sviluppo del campo e sull'apossibile partecipazione della squadra al campionato di lega nazionale il prossimo anno.

Il Fawkner potrebbe ancora fare l'impossibile

Bella sorpresa quella della vittoria del Fawkner sul difficile campo del Devon. Finalmente senza patimenti d'animo per fare più di quanto era umanamente possibile, il Fawkner sta giocando con quella tranquillità che le permette di esprimere la qualità della sua giovane formazione e di sfruttare le possibilità del ritro-

vato binomio Tuffield-Anselma che era stato rotto per la maggior parte del campionato, prima per l'infortunio a quest'ultimo poi per preferirgli giocatori di maggior fama. Con la vittoria di domenica scorsa il Fawkner ha fatto un altro passo in avanti verso la conquista di una quarta poltrona che gli inforniti e una politica errata di ricorrere a grandi nomi sponpati le aveva precluso. Con la vittoria di domenica il Fawkner si trova ora in sesta posizione a pari punti con il Box Hill, ad un punto dalla quinta (Polonia) ed a tre punti dalla quarta. Questo fine campionato è particolarmente duro per i ragazzi di Jukes Road che dovranno incontrare Green Gully e Croatia, ma le possibilità sono lì e comunque una cosa è certa: le due capoliste questa volta non faranno una passeggiata contro la ringhianata formazione azzurra.

Il Morwell non ha altra da dire

Il Morwell questa settimana non è riuscito ad andare nemmeno oltre il pareggio con il Ringwood, segno che ormai i Falconi non hanno più altro da dire in questo campionato che per loro è diventato solo un obbligo da portare a termine. Al sicuro dalla retrocessione ufficiale (poiché retrocessione quest'anno non ci sarà) a causa della partenza di alcune squadre verso la lega nazionale, la siglata fuori da qualsiasi piazzamento importante, il Morwell ha praticamente concluso il suo campionato con molto anticipo.

Da una parte la sua prestazione quest'anno, rispetto alla quarta poltrona guadagnata l'anno scorso al suo esordio in lega statale, è stata molto deludente, dall'altra parte bisogna tener presente che il campionato di quest'anno è stato molto più impegnativo con il notevole,

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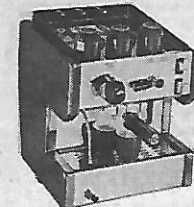
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Auguri alla Juventus, al Fawkner, al Morwell e a tutte le squadre italiane nei campionati minori.

Malta must rank with the least classy soccer nations in the world but there can be few more passionate followers of the game than the Maltese.

But whereas Mediterranean giants like Italy, Spain, France and Greece can boast of a healthy — if not glorious — Tradition, Malta, unfortunately, has never been able to erase its image of a 'soccer minnow'.

The smallness of the island and its dry climate which makes grassy pitches hard to maintain account for the delay in the game's development in the soccer-mad country.

The Maltese fell in love with the game upon the arrival of the first British troops in the last century.

As more and more Maltese became 'hooked' on the game, the first clubs were formed and subsequent clashes between local teams and British service sides drew thousands of fans.

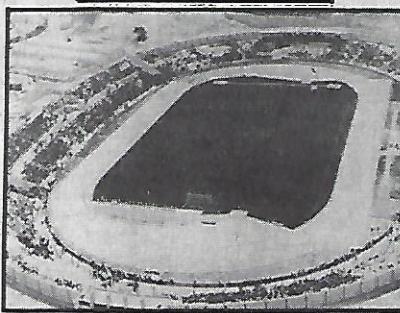
With the advent of TV in the fifties, Maltese fans were able to watch all the top soccer events from abroad.

Indeed, the magical skills of the Peles, Garrinchas and Didis did much to excite the Meltese followers in 1958.

In the early sixties Malta became a member of both FIFA and UEFA thus obtaining the right to take part in the World Cup and the European

Malta on the way up

By PHILIP MICALLEF



Malta's new national stadium

championship, then known as the Nations' Cup.

Malta's leading clubs also have been participating in the three European club tournaments for nearly 20 years.

Results, understandably, have generally been poor — sometimes disastrous.

There were the occasional exploits, like the 2-0 defeat of Greece in the 1976 European championship and the 0-0 draw with West Germany four years later in the same competition.

But the results and some others at club level were mainly attributed to the hard and sandy playing surface of the Empire Stadium and not to the gallant effort of the plucky part-timers.

It was becoming, in a way, a no-win situation as bitter controversies arose in the country as to whether a small island like Malta should be allowed to 'mix it' with the professionals from abroad.

So when a brand new stadium, with a grass pitch, was built by the government in 1981 in the rural district of Taqali observers were hoping for an overdue improvement in the local standard.

The 25,000 capacity stadium is used for Premier League matches and for international games.

But the construction of the grass pitch stadium has not solved Malta's problems, ac-

cording to national coach Victor Scerri.

"Playing on grass at the weekend has not led to better football in the championship," Scerri pointed out.

"Because our players still are training on hard ground during the week."

But the new stadium has at least saved Malta the embarrassment of hosting world class players on a rocky surface which had become the joke of the world football.

Foreign experts will shortly examine ways and means of levelling the playing surface which was damaged by a rare torrential downpour.

This year Malta was somewhat unlucky to lose two home European championship matches in the qualifying Group Seven.

A last-minute fluke goal by Manchester United striker Frank Stapleton gave Elre a 1-0 win while Spain had to fight all the way to turn a 1-2 deficit into a narrow 3-2 win which put them at the top of the table.

A few years ago we managed to obtain the odd result by playing in defence," Scerri said.

"Today I'm happy to say we are trying to play the game."

And with a bit of luck we could have beaten the Irish and especially the Spaniards.

Scerri, 54, has been at the helm of the Maltese national team for seven years. Scerri was a top goalkeeper with Melita and Silema in his playing days.

He also was picked in several representative matches against touring sides.



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DAVID SKEEN
(St. George)

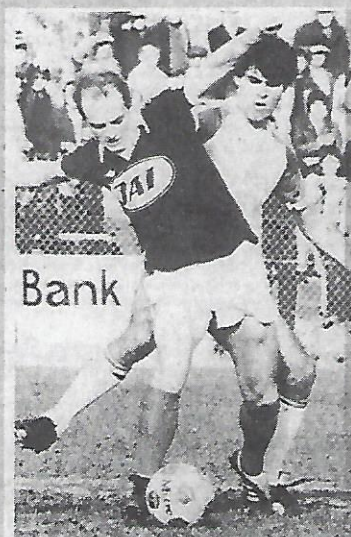
FOOTSCRAY **V** **WOLLONGONG** **CITY**

Schintler Reserve

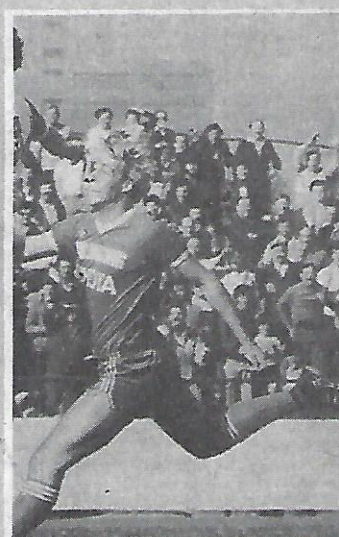
K.O. 3 pm

Previous results

'81.....	1-1
'82.....	1-2



IAN PURDIE
(Footscray)



RAY VLIETSTRA
(Wollongong)